Eugenijus Simonas KISINAS

WE ARE THE *KISINAS*

Eugenijus Simonas KISINAS

WE ARE THE KISINAS

To my descendants and
to all people of good
will in commemoration
of the 100th anniversary
of the Lithuanian State
and the Lithuanian Army
restoration

Eugenijus Simonas KISINAS

WE ARE THE KISINAS

Biographical essay
The reduced edition

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PREFACE

Eugenijus Simonas
KISINAS

It was centuries ago when families lived in one village, where they came to this world, grew up and found their place in life, died and were buried at a rural cemetery. Nowadays we live in the age of urbanization and globalization. Everything has changed since that time: traditions, customs and dispositions. Not without reason the songs are sung about children who left their homes, who are "waited and waited" by their aged mothers.

How important it is not to get lost in this huge world, not to lose your roots, because not only a tree dies without its roots. A person who is not interested in his near and distant relatives is also wrong, so that the family threads are teared apart.

Now I can only regret that earlier, while parents and uncles were still alive, I did not communicate with them much and did not even look for a meeting with them. I am not justified with the life circumstances that half of my life I was far from my homeland; I was immersed into my affairs, work and creativity. I feel a sense of guilt when I think about people who are close to me and to my family.

Although at the end of my life (when I began to count the nineties) I try to atone my guilt in this book, experience something what I have not caught up in my life, leave a revelation to my descendants.

It was Antonina Kisinaitė letter in one of the social networks, which made me to write this book, with whom we had not been previously acquainted. She wrote that she would like to know about family ties with me and my family. We began an intensive correspondence with her and her father Efim Kisinas and found many coincidences that can be misleading. Her grandfather's name was Izidorius, as well as my uncle's name; and they both were born in Panevėžys. However, the names of our great-grandfathers were different – Haim and Jokūbas. Efim Kisinas confirmed documentary this circumstance. According to Antonina's words, we are only sharing the same name.

That letter had pushed me to find and restore the history of my family roots. Previously, I received all the information from my mother's stories and from four articles about the Kisinas: Evgeny Kissin (the world-famous pianist), Abraomas Kisinas (the geobotanist), Izidorius Kisinas (the bibliographer, librarian) and Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas (the military leader) (Universal

Lithuanian Encyclopaedia, X v. pages 176-177). It is great that among Panevėžys Kisinas there is the world-known pianist (although there are still many questions because of the lack of information about my uncle and his family from St. Petersburg).

So, I began my search and found all my relatives in Lithuania: cousin Silvijus Kisinas, his children – Gintarė, Marius, Justė and Silvija, grandchildren – Jonas, Arnas, Greta and Nojus. I has restored a close relationship with my brother Samuelis Kisinas, who lives in Israel and who has two daughters – Nurit and Michal, four grandchildren – Shira, Tal, Hani and Anna. It was possible to restore the life stories of uncle Abraomas and Izidorius.

Together with my cousin and his daughter Justė, we decided to write a biographical essay "We are the Kisinas" (the full name of the book in the Lithuanian and Russian is "We are the Kisinas: Following the Panevėžys Kisinas") about a large family of Jokūbas Kisinas from Panevėžys. All the family members of Simonas and Izidorius Kisinas approved our plan.

The work progressed very difficult, especially with regard to the history of grandfather Jokūbas and the families of uncle Efim and uncle Abraomas. There are no archival documents in Lithuania, because all archival documents of Jewish communities and synagogues were destroyed in the years of the fascist occupation. Maybe I will be able to find out some information in St. Petersburg (Russia) about Efim Kisin and his family. I tried to do this in 1966, when I was studying at the Leningrad Artillery Academy, but I did not know anything except the name, and I was told in the address bureau that 150 Kisinas were living in Leningrad. Only now, I realize that I did not have enough patience, and I wish I could call 150 phone numbers.

Today we know that Kisinas family is large and famous. Among all the family members, there are scientists (Abraomas and

Izidorius Kisinas); military leaders (Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas and Efim Kisin's son); physicians (Efim Kisin and his son, Abraomas' wife Pesia, and my father Simonas Kisinas, who has finished 3 courses of the Medical Faculty in Lithuanian University). The daughter of my sister Rita Audronė Eitmanavičiūtė is a pianist, accompanist, music teacher, an Ass. Prof. of Musical Academy; she glorified Lithuania in many countries of the world. Besides there are politicians (Justė Kisinaitė); economists (my daughter Zita Kisinaitė-Staržinskaja); lawyers (my granddaughter Silvija Kisinaitė); businesspersons (my son Vladas and grandson Eugenijus Kisinas, Marius Kisinas); teachers (my sister Rita Kisinaitė-Eitmanavičienė and my granddaughter Marina Vasilčenko-Karapaša) and others. All of them, except several Kisinas, graduated from the universities; some of them have reached higher academic degrees. We are proud of them, though the people of any other specialty deserve the same respect and honor, if they do the best for their families. Panevėžys is the fifth big city in Lithuania, where there is a street in the centre, named after the famous geobotanist Abraomas Kisinas, who died in concentration camp of Dachau.

Unfortunately, there are no dynasties of doctors, teachers, musicians, etc. in our family but each of the Kisinas have passed on his chosen way, and have left a mark in life of family and society. Therefore, our descendants and we have to know them and to be proud of them, to follow their example and to continue the family biography. However, it requires a lot of hard work.

Our ancestors were Jews, but it has so developed that Izidorius Kisinas has changed the Jewish nationality with the Lithuanian, and Simonas Kisinas' descendants on the maternal line became Lithuanians. That is why almost all of Jokūbas Kisinas descendants, except of Abraomas' sons Efim and Simonas from the second marriage are Lithuanians. Furthermore, all the Kisinas living in Lithuania, Ukraine and Cyprus are Lithuanians.

It does not mean that this essay is about the Lithuanians only. My dear father and my beloved brother Samuelis are Jews and I am proud of it. Each nation is rich in people who enrich with their example and work not only their own people, but also all people irrespective of the place of residence.

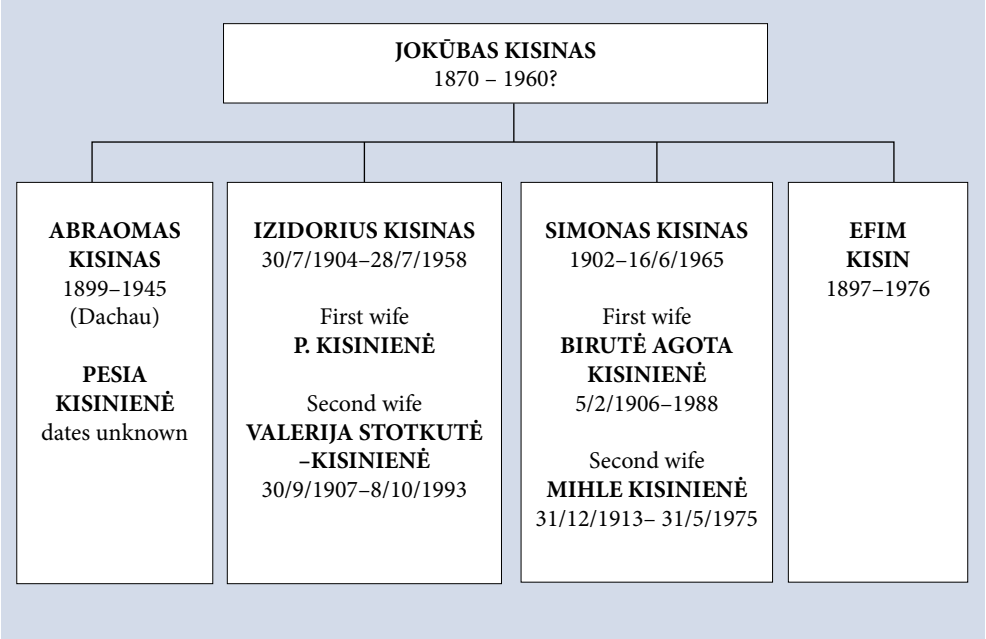
I am sincerely grateful to everyone who supported me in writing of this work. Separate thanks of Silvijus Kisinas, Justė Kisinaitė, my daughter Zita Kisinaitė-Staržinskaja. I just want to say a big thank-you to Radvilė Rimgailė-Voicik for helping me with Abraomas Kisinas biography. I would like the descendants to continue our family chronicle.

Author

P. S. All Lithuanian names, surnames and names of places are written in book original language – Lithuanian, e.g. Jonas Jablonskis (read – Yonas Yablonskis), Vaclovas Biržiška (read – Vatslovas Birzhishka), Čiurlionis (read – Chyurlyonis), Martynas Mažvydas (read – Martinas Mazhvidas), etc.

Jokūbas Kisinas

(about 1870 – about 1960)



He was born about 1870 in Panevėžys and lived in Ramygala street.

Like many Jews, Jokūbas lived a very secluded life in accordance with the Torah's instructions and traditions. In 1847 in Panevėžys 410 Jewish families lived, consisting of 1447 persons. In 1904, almost half of the population were Jewish; 3088 Jewish men and 3556 women belonged to the Jewish religion. The Jewish community had one of the main synagogue, built in 1764, and 12 houses of worship. The Jews served about 90% of the city's commercial needs. Before World War II in Panevėžys 60 Lithuanians and 351 Jews were engaged in trade.

So, the city economy rallied mostly by the hands of the Jewish businesspersons.

Jokūbas lived in prosperity, was engaged in trade and had a couple of companies; he was a civil engineering contractor.

In Jokūbas' family four sons were born: Efim, Abraomas, Simonas and Izidorius. The Jews tried that their children were competent, in spite of the position occupied in the society by their parents. Therefore, in 1863 after the opening of the first stage of the Jewish school, there five teachers taught 60 boys. Other children studied in the Jewish house of worship. In the same year, the spiritual school for girls began to work. Thus, Jokūbas children graduated from school.

In 27 July, 1915, German troops entered Panevėžys. Jewish businesspersons went to Russia. Jokūbas' family moved to St. Petersburg. After the signing of peace agreement in Brest, they returned to Panevėžys except their son Efim who stayed in St. Petesburg forever.

After school, the sons went different ways. Abraomas graduated from the university and became a well-known geobotanist in Lithuania. Simonas studied medicine, but did not end the university; he became a businessperson. Izidorius studied in Lithuania and Poland, and became one of the most famous bibliographers. Efim ended a medical course in St. Petersburg and became the pharmacist of chemist.

Simonas and Izidorius have refused Judaism and have accepted Baptism on a ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church, and have got married to Lithuanian women. Jokūbas has renounced sons and has stopped any communications with them.

1940–1941 were tragic years in Jewish history. The first Soviet occupation of Lithuania began. Jewish schools, gymnasiums, printing houses, yeshivas (a school for Jewish students, where they can train to become rabbis) closed in Panevėžys. Many industrial enterprises, commercial business, residential buildings, as well as the Panevėžys Jewish Hospital nationalized. In June 1940, the first deportations began, they concerned of Jews too. That is why Jokūbas sold all his property and immigrated to the United States. Thus, he avoided the Holocaust, but his son Abraomas did not survive and his son Simonas suffered very strongly. He did not keep in contact with the children who remained in Lithuania. His further life is unknown. Probably he died in about 1960 and buried in the United States.

THE HISTORY OF PANEVĖŽYS JEWS

(From the book by J. V. Čeplytė "The history of Little Jerusalem – of Panevėžys Jews", V., 2009)

So little information is collected about the deeper family roots of Kisinas, and about Jokūbas Kisinas' parents, but it is known that Jokūbas was born in St. Petersburg (Russia), and later he moved to the Lithuanian town Panevėžys, where he started his own family and laid the foundation for the big Kisinas' family. This version is supported by the fact that in 1915 he went to St. Petersburg with his family, escaping from the German occupation. He lived there until 1918 when he returned to Panevėžys. Thus, the history of Panevėžys Jews is described below.

FROM THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY UP TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

In Panevėžys Jews lived from the seventeenth century. They moved from Ukraine and Western Europe and thoroughly began to organize their life and Jewish community

In 1766 in New Panevėžys families of Jews built a lot of brick houses, in which 254 Jews lived. At that time craft and trade business intensively developed, especially in Panevėžys. They are engaged in petty trade and supplies, blacksmithing, wood processing. Panevėžys Jews were among the first in Lithuania who started the banking. They opened offices and lent money to small farmers.

In 1847, 410 Jewish families lived in Panevėžys, consisting of 1447 persons. They led a secluded life in accordance with the Torah's instructions and traditions. The relations between the Jews and people of other nationalities were factual and rather good.

The Jews tried to teach their children to read and write. In 1863, they opened the Jewish school, where five teachers taught 60 boys. Other children studied in the Jewish house of worship. In the same year, the spiritual school for girls began to work.

In 1897, the Jewish community had one of the main synagogue, built in 1764, and 12 houses of worship.

In 1904, Panevėžys community consisted of 14733 inhabitants; 3088 Jewish

men and 3556 women belonged to Judaism. The residents could be been even more if the Jews did not massively immigrate to Transylvania and United States. Ten years later about 17 thousand people lived in Panevėžys and suburbs. Almost half of the city population were the Jewish. The Jews served about 90% of the city's commercial needs. Before World War I in Panevėžys 60 Lithuanians and 351 Jews were engaged in trade. Therefore, the city economy rallied mostly by the Jewish businesspersons' hands.

FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO THE SECOND

27/7/1915 German troops entered Panevėžys. At that time, a considerable part of the population had already left it. Jewish businesspersons brought to Russia stocks of goods and raw materials. In the city the industry, crafts, trade stopped and providing the population with food and essentials completely stopped too.

In May 1918, after the signing of the peace agreement in Brest the students, artisans and the representatives of Jewish intellectuals began to come back to the city.

The Lithuanians restored independence, and they wrote all the signs on the shops and offices in Lithuanian. Jewish, Russian and Polish languages were less common in official life.

During this period, Jews had a significant impact on the development of crafts, trade organization and the overall progress of urban life. The Jews had their fraction in the city council, which took care of the Jewish community.

Since 1921 in Panevėžys, as in the whole Lithuania, a new phase of Jewish cultural and social life began. The Jews started to have a major impact on Lithuanian society. At that time, the representatives of Jewish people became the founders of schools; they built a lot of them.

From the author. These are some examples. The director of the Panevėžys yeshiva, the rabbi of Panevėžys J. Kananemanas, have been elected to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and represented the Jewish communities not only in Panevėžys, but also in Lithuania. Abraomas Kisinas was an active member of the public and political organizations, worked in the Ministry of the Jewish affairs.

In 26 August, 1920, it was opened the Jewish gymnasium in Panevėžys – a

secular school, where boys and girls studied; they got technical education.

In 1925, the Museum of Local Lore was established in Panevėžys. It is famous for its rich archaeological department and numismatic collection. The museum funds contained 15 thousand exhibits.

After several years, a religious school for girls was opened in one of the buildings in Ramygala Str. (cur. No.34). 180 girls studied there after eight-year education. In the gymnasium, they learnt mathematics and other core disciplines and choreography.

The boys' gymnasium was also opened (Electrical Str., 15), built at the expense of the Jewish community (111 390 litas). At that time, the buildings were built of brick. They were suitable for the architectural complex of the city, despite the fact that on the attics of the buildings there were the Star of David, Torah or menorah.

Four streets in Panevėžys were named after the Jewish Rabbi Icelis and Hercelis, S. Meras and Kisinas.

FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO THE RESTORATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1940–1941 years were tragic in Jewish history. When the Soviet power was established across Lithuania, in Panevėžys the Jewish schools, gymnasiums, printing houses and yeshivas were closed. Many industries, commercial business, residential buildings, as well as the Jewish Hospital were nationalized in Panevėžys.

From the author. The Yeshivah is the Judaic highest religious institution intended for studying of the Talmud and training of scientists for a rank of rabbis. The Yeshivah is the centre of a Judaic thought and the place of education of spiritual elite of Jewry. The Panevėžys Yeshivah was opened in 1909 in Ramygala Str. It was known not only in Lithuania, but also in many countries of Europe as the Jewish spiritual school. In 1940 the Yeshivah was closed, a part of teachers and pupils were deported, the others became the victims of genocide in the years of the German occupation. In spring of 1943 in the Yeshivah the temporary ghetto was opened for the Jews brought for works from Vilnius. Part of them by means of locals ran from a ghetto, the others were returned to Vilnius and shot.

On June 1940, deportations began, and the Jews did not avoid them.

After Nazi occupation of Panevėžys in June 1941, the first arrests and extermination of people of the Jewish nationality began – 57 arrested Jews were taken out to the Stasiūnai wood and shot.

On July 1941, the Jewish ghetto was arranged in the territory of such streets as Skerdykla, Tilvytis, Jungė, Upytė and Klaipėda. At first in the ghetto 4423 persons lived, among them there were 417 children under six years. Auxiliary constabulary forces in coordination with local commandant's office carried out resettlement of the Jews.

On 17 August, 1941 the ghetto was liquidated, 8 thousand Jews were shot in the Kurganava wood (near Taruška); 4,5 thousand – in the Žalioji (Green) forest (a vicinity of Klimbala). In places of massacre, monuments and memorable signs with inscriptions are established now. In Panevėžys in the years of war, 95% of Jewish people were destroyed. Many of them could not manage to emigrate during the war; they were killed and tortured in concentration camps.

In 1945, some evacuated Jews from the Western Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and other republics of the USSR were moved to Lithuania by the decision of the government. The Soviet power tried to lodge here people of different nationalities that Lithuania became the multinational republic.

On 16 October, 1955, the Jewish cemeteries were closed by the decision of the Panevėžys Executive committee. In 1966, it was decided to liquidate them completely. The remained gravestones were used in construction of various objects. Several tombstones were used for a ladder and the device of a decorative wall of the Panevėžys drama theatre.

In 1945-1990, the activity of the Panevėžys Jewish community hardly glimmered. About 10 thousand Jews emigrated in this period from Lithuania.

MODERN HISTORY

In 1990 after restoration of independence of Lithuania, the Panevėžys Jewish community and its Council has revived. Preservation and development of Judaic traditions and rich Jewish culture became a main objective and tasks of the revived Jewish community.

In 1993 on the place of the former ghetto, a monument of "A ghetto gate" was established by the efforts of the Panevėžys municipality and the Jewish community. In 1994, the memorable sign was opened on the building of the former Yeshivah

(Savanoriai Str., 11). In 2001, the same sign was also opened on the Jewish house of worship (Valančius Str., 4).

In 2004, the municipality of Panevėžys has allocated the room to the Jewish community in the former Jewish female gymnasium (nowadays it is school of Youth, Ramygala Str., 18). Now there take place various actions of community, a church service, Sunday school of Hebrew, the program of youth clubs "The Warm House", seminars and meetings of pupils and teachers, studying the Jewish history, etc. The museum "Fragments from the History of Panevėžys Jews" is opened in community, and inhabitants and city visitors can visit it.

Now the community carries out the wide program of religious revival, social and educational problems are resolved, various cultural events are held. Traditional holidays are organized: Roche-ashana (Jewish New year), Hanukkah, Purim, Pesach and others. The most important task of community is to revive a tradition of the Sabbath when in all Jewish families Saturday candles are lit.

In the centre of the city there is a street called by the name of the known geobotanist Abraomas Kisinas who died in a concentration camp of Dachau. The name received in pre-war years repeatedly changed. In 1941 Kisinas Str. was renamed by the decision of the Panevėžys municipality into the street of the doctor Antanas Gudonis. The new name remained before the second Soviet occupation. And on 4 October, 1944 the decision of the Panevėžys Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies the street received the name of Juozas Danilevičius.

On 13 August, 1990 according to the order of the municipal government of Panevėžys, N 359p, Juozas Danilevičius Str. got its previous name of Abraomas Kisinas.

A View of Abraomas Kisinas street

Abraomas Kisinas

(5/9/1899-1945)

The Lithuanian geobotanist, the Doctor of Natural Sciences (1935), in 1927 he graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Lithuanian University. Since 1918 he has been working as the teacher in Panevėžys, later in Kaunas; in the years of Nazi occupation he was in the Kaunas ghetto, in 1944 he was transported into the concentration camp of Dachau where died. He has published the collection of scientific articles about associations of plants and complexes of associations of the Lithuanian seaside (Works of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Vol. 11, 1936). (Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia, X, page 176).

He was born on 5 September, 1899 in Panevėžys in the family of Jokūbas and Chaja. In 1918, he graduated from the Panevėžys real school, and began to work as the teacher. He paid a special attention to Hebrew. He was an active member of the public and political organizations, worked in the Ministry of the Jewish affairs; he was a member of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Socialist Zionist Party, the member of „Žodis“ newspaper editorial office (“Word”). He edited the issue of the Lithuanian teachers’ union of Hebrew „Švietimo keliais“ (“On the ways of education”), and he was the Chairman of this organization, and the Deputy Director of a Gymnasium. In the spring and summer of 1925-1926, he investigated plants of seaside dunes and generalized results of researches. In 1927, he has defended the thesis on the subject “Vegetation of Dunes of the Coast of Palanga.”

Associations of plants and complexes of associations of the Lithuanian seaside he investigated later. In 1934, he has prepared and defended the dissertation on the subject "Associations of Plants and Complexes of Associations of the Lithuanian Seaside" at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Vytautas Magnum University. The same year together with A. Pinčukas, he has written "The Textbook of Natural History" for the 3d class of elementary school (Kaunas: A. Ptašekas bookstore, 1932, Kaunas, J. Kuznickis and L. Beilis printing house). Since 1931, he was a member of scientists' society of Lithuania.

In 1941, he and his wife, the paediatrician Pesia Kisinienė, and the daughter Avivit were sent to the Kaunas ghetto. At that time in Lithuania the operational staff of A. Rosenberg already worked which was responsible for the organization of registration, confiscation and export of the Jewish cultural values to the Third Reich. (Lituanistika, 2004, Volume 59, No. 3. Page 22-46). Traces of Rosenberg headquarters activity in Kaunas were seen in autumn of 1941. At the beginning of 1942, the headquarters have demanded from the Council of Elders of the Kaunas ghetto to find five Jews who speak German, Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish languages. Four intellectuals were left for work – Ch. Lemchenas, Abraomas Kisinas, Cvi Kiršas and Josifas Ryžinas. They worked in the building on A. Mapu Street where there were many books in different languages. The Jewish intellectuals sorted books by their value and the importance. Here is how H. Lemkhen writes about it in the memoirs: "Invaluable Jewish values we did not notice though there was one-other interesting book. It was impossible to take out and hide more valuable editions because at ghetto gate almost all of us were searched." In 1944 the Kaunas ghetto was eliminated and Abraomas Kisinas was taken out to a concentration camp of Dachau-Kaufering where he died in 1945 – before release there were only several months.

His wife Pesia and the daughter Avivit have survived and until the end of the days, they were grateful to the family of Prof. Tadas Petkevičius and also to Bronislovas and Juozas Paukštys. In 1948 they emigrated to Israel. On 2 February, 1972 Pesia and Avivit were present at my brother Samuelis Kisinas' wedding. Pesia has died (date of death is unknown) and is buried in Israel.

In the newspaper "Sparks" issues prepared in a concentration camp of Dachau (hebr. "Nitzotz") – the only famous periodical in Hebrew of those times in Europe – Mendel Sadovskis text "In thirty days after Abraomas Kisinas's death" is presented. M. Sadovskis wrote about the teacher: "I will never forget your black eyes, a look of the teacher, seeker and leader. You were strict not only

to us, the pupils, but also to yourself… You never ceased to enrich the pupils with knowledge or to acquaint them closer with the nature and the live world. Always you collected samples of plants and animals and stored each blade, which you found. In addition, you were persistent, firm, such as the Jews had to be. For you it was a little to find a plant only, you experimented with it and named it – not just any name, but old or new name from the Bible. Nature... and Hebrew. In Hebrew your world was boundless. With your death your people have lost a good, faithful son. And the Zionist movement has lost one of the remained pioneers, the ideological person and the loyal friend who always worked and urged young people to fight for the homeland, for Israel" [The edition of the Jewish community of Lithuania „Beigelių krautuvėlė" – "Beigeliai little shop", 2015. No. 1. Radvilė Rimgailė-Voicik)].

The street in the centre of Panevėžys is named after Abraomas Kisinas (A. Kisinas g-vė) in honour of this famous man.

In the daily newspaper „Panevėžio balsas" ("The Voice of Panevėžys", on 21 July, 1990) it was reported the following: "At the initiative of Sąjūdis (the name of the main social movement of Lithuania in fight for independence and strengthening of the Lithuanian state) the commission has been created in our city to revise the names of city streets, the areas, squares...

I. It is offered to return names to the streets...

Danilevičius – Abraomas Kisinas

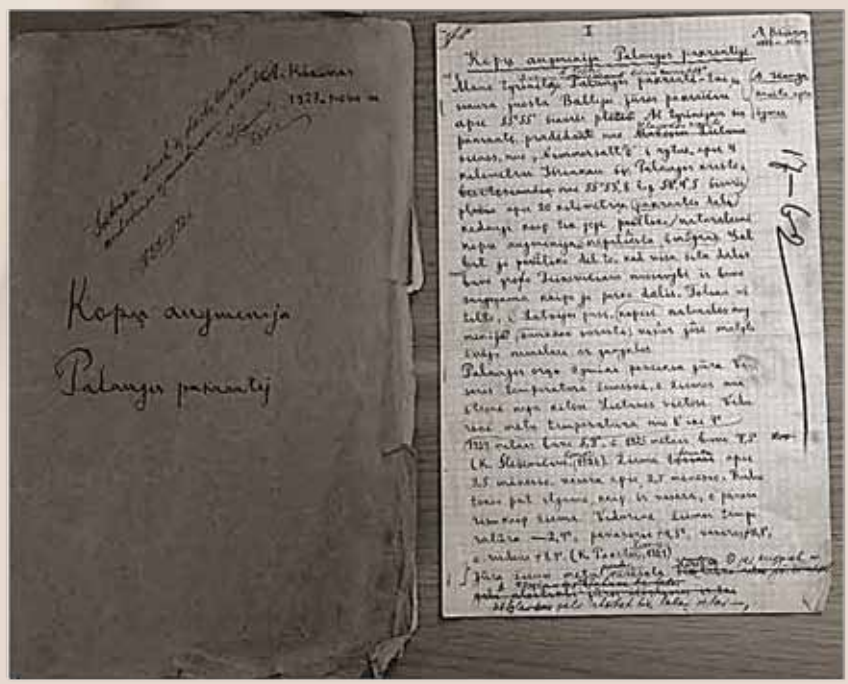
"... In brief we will remind historical justifications and motives of the offered names...

In Panevėžys a Doctor of Natural Sciences Abraomas Kisinas was born and lived who died in the concentration camp of Dachau in 1945."

The magazine "Israel Journal of Plant Sciences" (April 2016 with 7 Reads Impact Factor: 0.32 · DOI: 10.1080/07929978.2016.1154320) has printed the article: "Plant community associations and complexes of associations in the Lithuanian seashore: retrospective on the studies and tragic fate of the botanist Dr. Abraomas Kisinas (1899-1945)." "Associations of plants and complexes of associations of the Lithuanian coast: retrospective of researches and tragedy of the botanist Dr. Abraomas Kisinas (1899-1945)."

In this article, the photo made by A. Kisinas, the page of the manuscript "Plants of dunes and the coast of Palanga" and the remained copy of the passport are placed.

Copy of A. Kisinas' passport



Page of the manuscript "Plants of dunes and coast of Palanga"

Efim Kisin

(1897 – 1976)

Efim Kisin was born in 1897 in Panevėžys in prosperous Jewish family.

He studied until 1915. When on 27 July, 1915 the German troops occupied Panevėžys, Efim with family (parents, brothers Simonas, Abraomas and Izidorius) went to St. Petersburg. The family returned to Panevėžys in 1918 after signing of peace agreement in Brest. Efim remained in St. Petersburg with the family forever.

In St. Petersburg (already Leningrad) he graduated from pharmaceutical faculty and worked in chemist as the pharmacist.

He married and soon his son was born (the name is unknown), who graduated from the Leningrad Medical Academy, served in the Pacific fleet, and finished the military service as the Chief of Military Hospital – the Captain of the First Rank (corresponds to a colonel).

In the years of the Siege of Leningrad (1941-1944) he remained with the family there. All of them have survived, thanks to reserves of vitamins and drugs in chemist.

After the death of the first wife, Efim married her girlfriend.

In 1964 he visited his brother Simonas who was seriously ill. He died in 1965 in Kaunas.

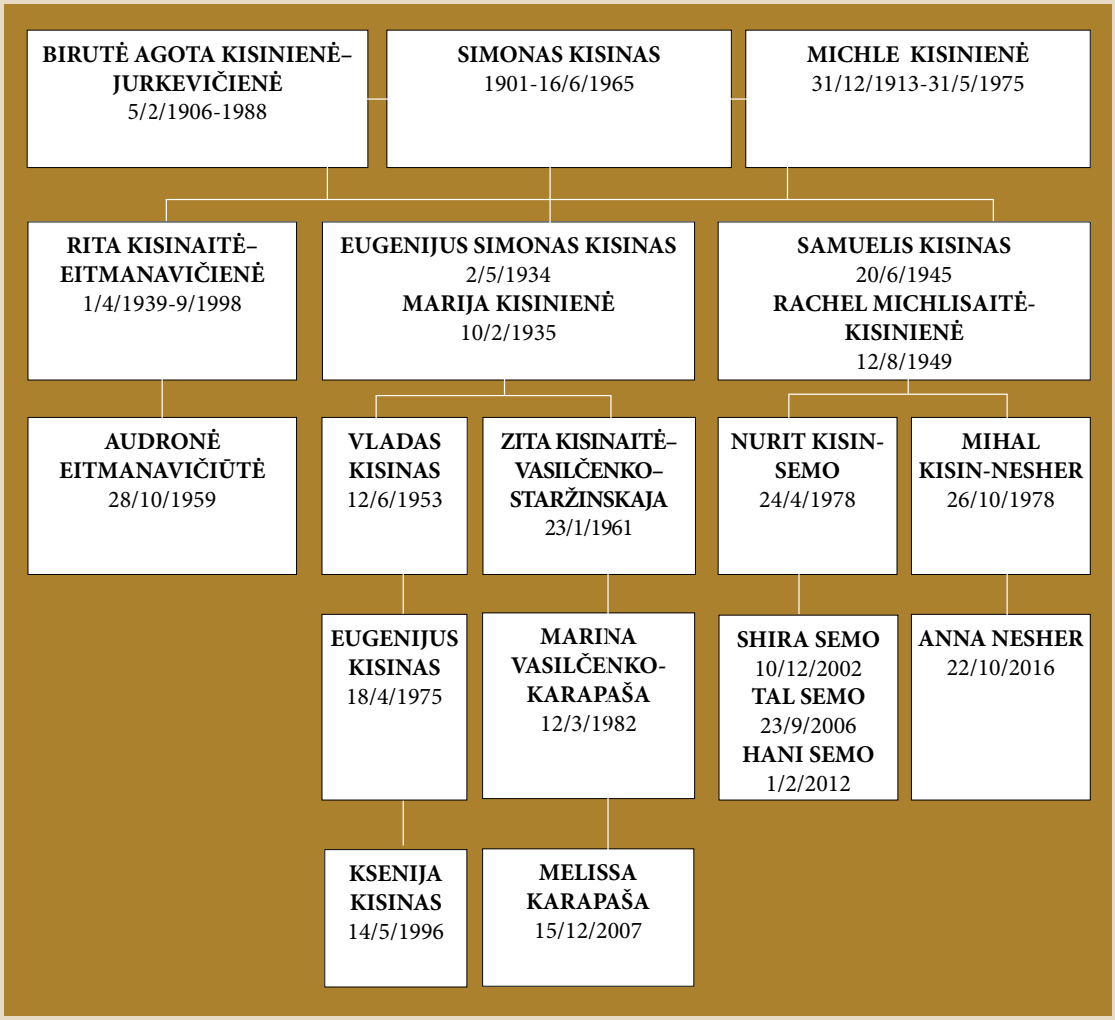
Efim Kisin died in 1976 and buried at the Jewish cemetery in St. Petersburg.

There is no more information about him and his family.

Efim's grave

THE FAMILY OF SIMONAS KISINAS

GENEALOGICAL TREE OF SIMONAS KISINAS' FAMILY



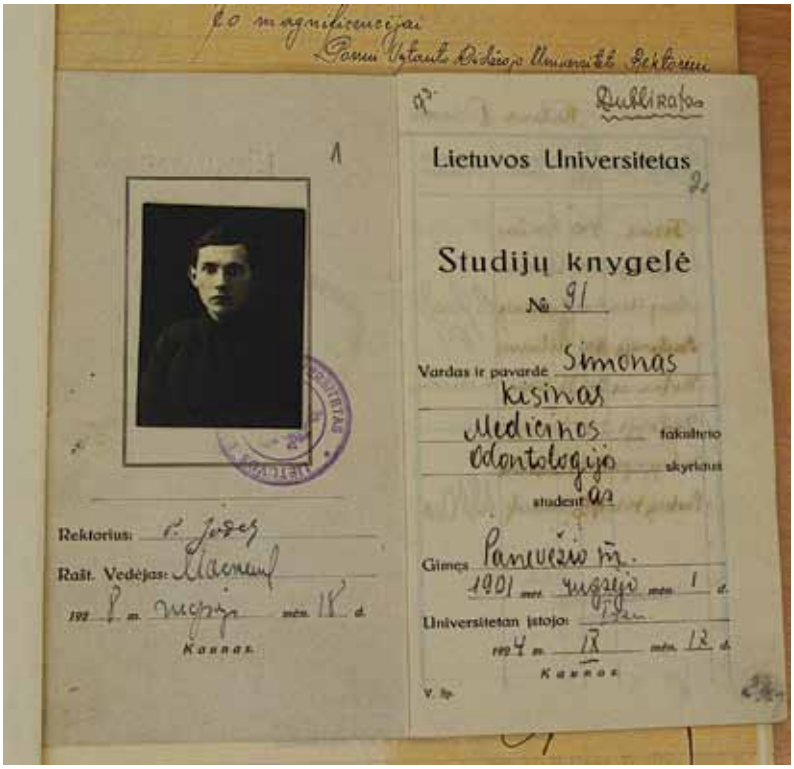
Simonas Kisinas

(1901-16/6/1965)

Simonas Kisinas was born in 1901 in Panevėžys in the family of the prosperous Jew. About 14 thousand people lived at that time in Panevėžys. Nearly a half of the city population were the Jews. They provided about 90% of commercial needs of the city. Before World War I 60 Lithuanians and 351 Jews were engaged in trade in Panevėžys. Thus, the municipal economy has been generally concentrated in hands of the Jewish businesspersons. Simonas' father was one of them.

Simonas Kisinas studied until 1915. The German troops entered in Panevėžys on 27 July, 1915, by that time a considerable part of the population left the city. The Jewish businesspersons transported stocks of goods and raw materials to Russia. The industry, constructs, trade stopped, that provided the population with essentials was completely broken. Simonas and his family (parents, brothers Efim, Abraomas and Izidorius) went to St. Petersburg. The family returned to Panevėžys in 1918 after signing of the peace agreement in Brest. The brother Efim remained in St. Petersburg and he lived all his life there.

On 17 September, 1924, Simonas Kisinas began to study stomatology on the Medical Faculty of the Lithuanian University. After the third course in 1928, he left the university due to the lack of means for study continuation (the family did not help him).


Lietuvos Universitetas

Studijų knygelė

№ 91

Vardas ir pavardė Simonas Kisinas

Medicinos fakulteto Odontologijos skyriaus studentas

Gimęs Panevėžio m. 1901 m. gegužės mėn. 1 d.

Universitetan įstojo: 1924 m. IX mėn. 12 d.

Kaunas

Rektorius:

Rašt. Vedėjas:

Student's book of Simonas Kisinas

In Kaunas Simonas Kisinas survived on casual earnings, he worked as the seller in a shop. He fell in love and then married Birutė Agota Kasperavičiūtė who arrived to Kaunas from the Vilkaviškis county. Simonas was baptized by the rules of the Roman Catholic Church and in 1932 he married Birutė Agota Kasperavičiūtė in a church of Carmelites. For this reason, the Jewish community and the father Jokūbas have renounced him.

Having saved up money, Simonas has opened a small shop. The family lived in the rental-equipped apartment. On 2 May, 1934 the son Eugenijus Simonas was born, and on 1 April, 1939 – the daughter Rita. The family lived well, the son attended prestigious kindergarten at a church of Carmelites.

Simonas, as well as his brothers Izidorius and Abraomas, knew many foreign languages. Brothers often met in Simonas' house and in the evenings communicated in different languages.

In 1940, the first Soviet occupation began, and Simonas sold his shop. The family moved to the town of Biržai. In 1941 they returned to Kaunas. They had no housing; the family lived in rental apartments.

In the first days of war, he and his brother Abraomas tried to leave through Riga in the USSR, but the Germans blocked the road, and it was impossible to leave.

At the beginning of war, saving children from the German aggressors, his wife Birutė Agota Kisinienė dissolved a marriage with Simonas.

Even before creation of the ghetto in Kaunas, about 10 thousand Jews were destroyed in June-July, 1941. 10 July, 1941 is the beginning of the ghetto creation when the Kaunas Commandant Jurgis Bobelis ordered the Jews to move in Vilijampolė (the district of the city separated from other part of it by the Neris River) till 15 August. Simonas and his brother Abraomas got in the ghetto. More than 30 thousand people lived in the ghetto at the same time, the majority of them were deported to concentration camps or were shot in the ninth fort of Kaunas. About 500 Jews disappeared in the woods and joined guerrillas. From 37 thousand of Kaunas Jews less than 3 thousand of them could endure the Holocaust. The Kaunas ghetto began to be liquidated on 8 July, 1944. On 12 July Gestapo men began to set fire to houses of a ghetto, and shot the running-away people. Men were taken out to a concentration camp of Dachau, and women – to Shtutgof. About 2 thousand were killed and about 6 thousand Jews were taken out to concentration camps. Simonas and Abraomas got to Dachau.

Being in this ghetto, Simonas has been acquainted with the future second wife Michle.

The concentration camp of Dachau is a concentration camp in Germany, Bavaria, to the north from Munich, it functioned in 1933-1945. In the Southern

The house in Vilijampolė near which there were main gate in the Kaunas ghetto

Germany and Austria the concentration camp of Dachau had about 150 branches which usually named in the same way. In the main Dachau camp there were about 160,000 people, in branches – about 90,000. About 3,200 prisoners died, the large number of them was transported for destruction in the camp of Poland. 3,250 residents of Lithuania, including 1 thousand Jews were imprisoned in

Dachau. In the camp180 Lithuanians died. Here Simonas' brother Abraomas also died. On 29 April, 1945 the concentration camp of Dachau was occupied by troops of the USA. About 30 thousand former prisoners were released, among them there was Simonas Kisinas who weighed only 34 kg.

Concentration camp of Dachau in 1945 after release

After returning to Kaunas Simonas got married to Michle, which was born on 31 December, 1913 in the Latvian city of Liepaya. They gave birth to the son Samuelis who studied at a secondary school of Adomas Mickevičius, and in 1971 they emigrated to Israel together with mother.

Simonas Kisinas worked in trade, kept in contact with the son Eugenijus and the daughter Rita. He met with his brother Efim from Leningrad. Silvijus from Vilnius, who is the son of his brother Izidorius, visited Simonas Kisinas.

Simonas was seriously ill; he was often treated in Birštonas and other sanatoria. He died of cirrhosis on 16 June, 1965 and buried at the Jewish cemetery in Kaunas. The son Samuelis visits the father's grave.

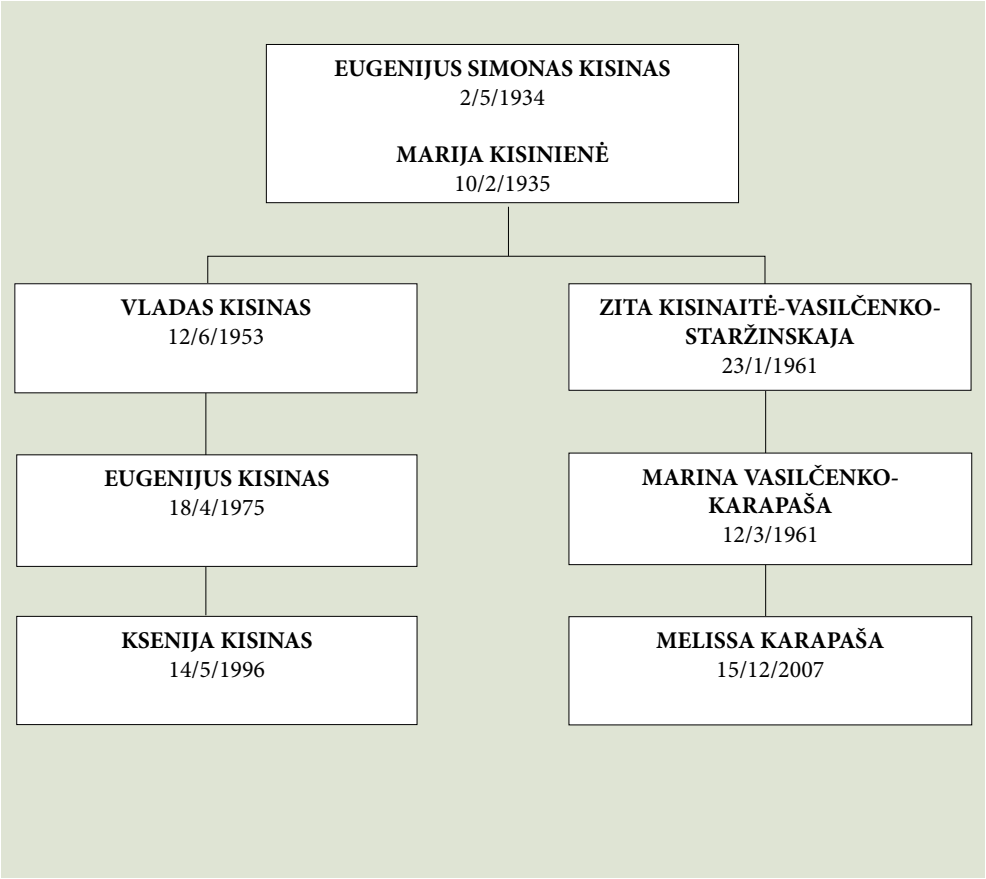
Simonas's grave

This clock stood in Simonas' room (from 1946 and to his death in 1965), and his son Samuelis took them to Israel as the only material evidence. Serviceable clock is showing the time of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SON

Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas

(2/5/1934)



CHILDHOOD (1934–1947)

I would like to remind some moments from the history that took place one year prior to my birth. The family of my parents has broken up. My relatives suffered strongly, some of them were destroyed. The course of history has turned not only for my family, but also for the whole world.

15 March, 1933 German Chancellor Adolf Hitler announced the new name for the country he led – the Third Reich. Nazi Germany with a new name has come to the contemporary history. Nazis proclaimed the slogan: To take a revenge for defeat in World War I and the Treaty of Versailles, humiliating for the nation.

On March, 1933 in Dachau (near Munich), the first concentration camp was created. In consequence, it became a testing ground for "extermination camps"; persecutions of the Jews began at the same time. On April 1933 "The law on recovery of professional officials" was adopted, and as a result those who had at least one Jewish primogenitor were dismissed. Within a year a number of the regulations and actions directed against the Jewish intellectuals were adopted, quotas for reception of the Jews to educational institutions were introduced. Racial restrictions have concerned lawyers, professors, notaries, physicians, etc. The books of the Jewish and anti-Nazi authors were burnt publicly. Mass Jewish emigration from Germany has begun. In October 1933, the Assembly of the League of Nations created a department for the Jewish refugees from Germany; thanks to it thousands of Jewish refugees were settled and saved in Palestine.

17 July, 1933 when performing transatlantic flight along a route New York-Kaunas (7786 km) the Lithuanian pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas died. After successful flight over a northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, the "Lithuanica" plane crashed on the territory of Germany in 650 km from the target. Today the place of accident is on the territory of Poland at the village of Pshchelnik. According to the official version of the German commission, bad weather conditions and an excessive consumption of fuel were a cause of accident. However, there is an unconfirmed version, according to which the plane was shot down over the confidential concentration camp Berlinkhen. The glory about a feat of the dead Lithuanian pilots was carried worldwide. It was the world's second result of non-stop flights on time (duration was 37 h 11 min.) and the second one in the history of aircraft – on accuracy, (though flight took place under bad weather conditions, without radio, the autopilot and parachutes).

In Aleksotas airfield the dead pilots-heroes were met by more than 50,000 people, they wanted to carry out them to a final journey. Lithuanians showed extraordinary raising of the nation. The church bells and factory sirens accompanied a funeral procession To Arkikatedra Bazilika (in English Cathedral Basilica) where all night long there were people to say goodbye to the heroes. My young parents were also the participants and witnesses of the procession.

Monument on the accident site — the village of Pshchelnik near Myslibozh (Poland)

Darius and Girėnas's mausoleum at the old cemetery of Kaunas (destroyed in 1956)

Memorable stone on the place of the destroyed mausoleum (2004)

A little more than nine months passed, and I have come to the world, which has endured an economic crisis of 1929-1933. After a long economic depression, people were waiting for improvement of life. They could not even think that "black clouds" were gathering which would bring a grief and sufferings and change the fate of many people and nations.

I am EUGENIJUS SIMONAS KISINAS; I was born 2 May, 1934 in Kaunas. It was early spring, the day was fine; and the weather was sunny. The lilac blossomed.

I am in autumn, 1934

What was the 1934th like? Lithuania, as well as the whole world, still felt consequences of an economic crisis. It was the period of presidency of A. Smetona, which is characterized by strengthening of statehood and developing of national economy. Liberation of Vilnius was a dream of each Lithuanian. However, the fight for the Klaipėda region continued. In February, searches and arrests took place in Klaipėda. The Lithuanian authorities struck a hard blow to the impudent Nazis of the Klaipėda region who wished to present a seaport Klaipėda to Adolf Hitler on his birthday. On 6-7 June, in Kaunas there was a military putsch, which managed to be suppressed quickly. Many leaders of this putsch lost officer ranks, awards, sent to a stock, lowered in ranks or

dismissed from the army; three of them were sentenced to death, that it was later replaced for 12 years of imprisonment. "The goose history" is also memorable. The same year in Lithuania more than 5 million geese were grown up, about 90% of them were prepared for export to Germany. With a complication of the political relations, Germany has refused purchase of a bird, and the Lithuanian government has forced the officials to redeem all geese.

In general, the economic and political situation in Lithuania was stable. Our family lived in Kaunas. It was a rental apartment in the house at the corner of Gediminas Str. and Miškas Str. I was born with the weight of 5 kg, parents rejoiced to such athlete, dreamed of the strong assistant in family. However, I became the officer, the teacher and the author of dictionaries.

My childhood was carefree until 1941. The family was well off. I attended a kindergarten of Carmelites' church near the house. My aunt Magdutė was engaged in my education when parents worked in a shop.

1939 – I am five

I began to read books when I was four. There was a bookstore in the neighbourhood with my parents' shop. The owner kindly gave me a book for several days. Thus, I have read all the most interesting books in the bookstore. The love to reading helped me to get an education at school almost independently and to prepare myself for entering to Academy.

When I was five, I bought the street lottery ticket for pocket money, the prize made 100 litas (at that time it was possible to buy twenty geese for them and even a cow for 150 litas). I won money and gave it all to my mother.

I remember well my uncles Abraomas and Izidorius who often came to our house and always spoke unknown languages (the father and his brothers knew ten languages, together they practiced informal conversation).

1 April, 1939 my sister Rita was born.

What was the 1939th like?

✓ 20 March, 1939 Germany announced the ultimatum to Lithuania and demanded to attach the Klaipėda region to East Prussia, threatening with military force.

✓ 22 March, 1939 the contract was signed according to which Lithuania "voluntarily" gave the Klaipėda region to Germany. Lithuania have lost the important economic port. Patriotism of the population and trust to the government fell down in the country.

✓ 28 September, 1939 the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed, Lithuania got to the sphere of the USSR interests.

✓ 10 October, 1939 Lithuania and the USSR signed the agreement of mutual assistance according to which the Vilnius region occupied with the Red Army at that time was transferred to Lithuania. In exchange, 20,000 soldiers of the Red Army were deployed in four areas of Lithuania. This contract intensified anti state activity of the Communist Party of Lithuania and all the pro-Soviet forces.

✓ 11 October, 1939 a demonstration took place in Kaunas; people showed discontent with the Lithuanian power and chanted the pro-Soviet slogans. On the same day, the Communist Party of Lithuania distributed the leaflet inciting the population to overthrow the government of Lithuania.

I remember the moments of the demonstration; I was its participant. That day the owner of the bookstore put on me two fastened sheets of red paper with written slogans, and together we passed with it in the column of protesters.

✓ 15 June, 1940 the Red Army crossed the border of Lithuania – the first occupation began.

At this time the father sold the little shop (which was placed in the one-room apartment), the family moved to the city of Biržai. There I went to the first class, and I nearly died of a sudden illness – diphtheria. On Sunday, my parents together with my sister went to the country to have a rest. For some reason they left me at home, there were no any symptoms of a disease. Suddenly the temperature rose, the throat swelled up, and I began to choke. Soon the parents came back and together with the caused doctor, they saved me. It was the first test of destiny.

In Kaunas, as always, we lived in the rental apartment on Širvintai Str. (in several hundred meters from Savanoriai Ave.). 22 June, 1941 stamped brightly in my memory. After the radio notification about the beginning of war two brothers – Simonas (my father) and the uncle Abraomas have met in our apartment. They spoke a foreign language for a long time, said goodbye and left the house together. It was the last time when I saw my uncle.

Next morning the inhabitants were going to Savanoriai Ave. on which the German army was already moving on motorcycles and cars. People met Germans with flowers.

In several days, the father came back; he told that it was impossible to escape to the Soviet Union – the Germans blocked the way near Riga.

The destruction of the Jews has begun in Kaunas. Before the creation of a ghetto in Kaunas during June and July 1941, about 10,000 of the Jews were killed. The creation of a ghetto began on 10 July, 1941 when the Kaunas Commandant Jurgis Bobelis ordered the Jews to move to Vilijampolė till 15 August (the district of Kaunas separated from the other part of the city by the Neris River).

Therefore, the father went to a ghetto, and I knew nothing about him until the end of war.

It was written in the children's documents that we were Lithuanians. Our mother, saving children, have divorced the father formally. My sister who was only two years old and I were taken away to the village (the Vilkaviškis County, the village of Paežeriai) where the mother's parents lived. There, on the remote farms the grandmother and the grandfather, uncles Antanas, Vincas and Petras, the aunt Magdutė lived. We have been living in the village nearly two years. The winters were very cold and snow. There was so much snow that fences were not visible, and it was possible to get freely on the straw rooftop. The children used it – at Christmas night, they got on a roof and put a fir-tree into a flue pipe. In the morning, the uncle arranged us a good scolding. Together with other

boys, I sometimes went to Virbalis (for 9 km) to look at dances. Of course, we did not dance; we looked at the dancing youth. It was accepted, that only three musicians were playing accordion, violin and percussions.

At the end of 1942, we returned to Kaunas on Širvintai Str. The mother worked at a factory where all the working people got food-cards. We ate horseflesh very often; it was given on cards several times more, than other meat.

1942– me and Rita, the little sister

During war, I did not go to school, and looked after the little sister at home. We played various domestic games. Once, playing at hide-and-seek, I hid in the cellar with an open window. The little sister Rita threw a brick into a window and got to my head. The wound was sewn up in a hospital; the scar remained for the rest of life. It was my first "fighting scar." I have two scars more, but I will tell about them later.

When I was eight years old, I decided to help my mother. I saw children selling newspapers and magazines. I took money without demand and bought newspapers in a booth, the most popular magazine „Šluota" (with Lithuanian it is "Broom") and began my business. The first attempt was unsuccessful because I had no any experience. I did not know that the buyer was always right, and it was necessary to treat him validly. The buyer has paid for the newspaper the sum equal to its coast in a booth. I was dissatisfied, but it was necessary to run away after rough words. It was a good lesson, and business returned to normal over

time. I gave earnings to my mother, but also did not offend myself, leaving a little on the cinema. The „Pasaka“ movie theatre (with Lithuanian “Fairy tale”) was near; there they always showed only two movies: “The baron Miunkhgauzen’s flight to the Moon” and “Ziuss, the Jew”. We knew each frame of them by heart, but there were no more place to go.

Later mother left work at a factory and began to sell sweets in the market, which she prepared herself; I helped her to pack them into wrappers. There were not enough money to pay for the apartment, and we had to move in a smaller one that was in the house at the corner of Savanoriai Ave. and Žemaičiai Str. Living here, I got the second scar – skating from the mountain, I fell a knee to a sharp object and long enough I moved hardly.

The summer of 1944 came, the front approached Kaunas.

Germans were preparing for persistent defence of Kaunas, special attention was paid to interfluve of the Neman and Neris rivers, therefore many infantry and artillery was concentrated. Around the city strips of entrenchments were equipped, anti-tank and antipersonnel obstacles were arranged; roads were mined. Germans prepared for defence in the city: on the top floors of houses and attics, they equipped machine-gun positions; the strong points were placed at intersections of the streets; the shelters were set in sellers of the houses.

There was panic in the city, crowds of citizens ran out of it because they were waiting for heavy fighting. My mother decided to go to the country with children. She employed the vehicle, loaded our pathetic belongings and took us far away from the city. We stopped in the farmer’s house in 30 km from Kaunas. Somebody wrote there were strong fights in Kaunas, and the Red Army successfully moved ahead, but everything was in a different way. The main fights were at the point where the Red Army forced Neman. Having successfully overcome a water obstacle, the Soviet troops encountered fierce resistance of Germans and several days they marked time. Instead of the shelter, we got to the real hell. There were six buildings in the farmstead, and after the aircraft’s attacks, there were huge holes on the places of five buildings. Having appeared in the neutral territory where contradictory forces on both sides were fixed for several hundred metres, we hid in a big dugout, which was used for storage of vegetables, and we left there within three days. My mother stayed alive by miracle: she crept out of a dugout to find some water, and the flown bullet left a trail of blood on her head. At night when the fight abated a little, we ran away into the wood, wandered during a week, escaping from Germans. The

caught people were driven to Germany. We had no water; we had to eat crude mushrooms and potatoes, which were pulled out in the estates on the fringe of the forest. Weapons rolled everywhere, and everybody armed, I had a handgun. One hungry boy, armed with a rifle, suggested going to a farm and asking for some bread. However, they did not give us bread and banished us. Having seen the pig running in the yard, we decided not to come back to the wood empty-handed – we shot down it and returned to the wood with production. We ate crude meat; it was dangerous to make a fire.

When fights stopped, we returned to the estate. Corpses were found everywhere on the road, the awful stench extended. Because of terrible insanitary conditions I got sick with dysentery that often repeated (1955 – military school, 1962 – service in Vilnius), and then doctors found out chronic colitis which saved me from sending to the Afghan hell.

The laid-down arms rolled everywhere. Behind the village, the gun even stood left by the running-away Germans. There were also shells. It was interesting for children to look at a wonder and even to twist the barrel of the cannon. It can shoot, if you pull for the trigger cord fastened to a bolt. We did not know that the gun was loaded, someone accidentally stepped on a cord, and it fired. The barrel was directed over the forest where the Russian airship flew by at that time. We ran up and hid, and after a while, troops of People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs went to the village to find out those who tried to bring down the Russian aircraft. Thus, I was acquainted with artillery for the first time, without knowing that I was fated to devote the most part of my life to it.

We returned to Kaunas. The city almost did not suffer from the Russian approach, the majority of buildings were without serious damages, however the territory of the Kaunas ghetto in Vilijampolė was strongly damaged – the Germans set fire to it. Besides, when receding, they blew up many important buildings and objects in Kaunas: Petras Vileišis bridge in Vilijampolė, the railway bridge and the tunnel, the railway station, all power plants (the power plant at Vienybė Square is not restored) and many industrial enterprises.

Our pathetic hovel, as well as set of other houses and apartments, which were temporarily left by inhabitants were plundered. There were only empty walls in it. It was necessary to begin with everything once again.

1 August, 1944 the Red Army occupied Kaunas – the third (and the last) occupation of Lithuania began. As in 1941, a part of the Lithuanians met the Germans with flowers, so in 1944 they met the Soviet army in the same way.

In autumn, I continued my study that was interrupted in 1941. Though I finished only the first class, I was accepted to the fourth one at once. It was difficult, but I could read well; I learned to write and to count. It was necessary to be improved in study.

Mother rented three-room apartment at the corner of Savanoriai Ave. and Kipras Petrauskas Str., as always, with all conveniences in the yard. There was only water (without drainage) in the apartment. She was engaged, as it was called, in speculation. She cooked very tasty donuts and sold wholesale in the market. She also cooked lollipops (handmade candy), and in the evenings all the family wrapped them in wrappers. She even cooked ice cream by means of the simplest devices (a wooden barrel with ice, a metal container with a mass of ice cream and the elementary manual device for rotation of a container). She turned as she could to keep the family.

The war was over, and there were no news about the father. It was difficult for mother to support two children, and she married for the second time. He was the ordinary worker – Vladas Jurkevičius and soon two more children appeared in our family – my brother Vladas and the sister Birutė.

I studied at a secondary school in Tvirtovė Ave., 35 (the Kaunas Technological College now). I was very devout; never missed masses in a church on Aukštaičiai Str.; therefore, I did not enter the pioneer organization. It was probably the main cause to accuse me in "awful crime" – someone broke the newspaper from a wall; I was accused and expelled from the fifth class of a secondary school.

Mother took me to the 4th secondary school (now – Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas' Gymnasium), and in 1947 I successfully finished there the sixth class.

It was necessary for me not only to study, but also to help parents with household chores, for example, to chop firewood. Once the cabin ended sadly – I hit my left hand with the axe where the third (and probably the last) scar appeared.

Of course, I had time to rest. I read much. In small library on Savanoriai Ave. I read all the books by Walter Scott, Jules Verne, Karl Mai and many other writers. I could read only in the evenings. There was no electricity; we used carbide lamps, they shone well but were dangerous (could blow up). Mother went to bed early because she got up very early to cook donuts, therefore she said me also to sleep. I read at the light of a candle under a blanket. I even collected my library of several hundred volumes, which I had to sell subsequently.

I liked to ski. Together with my friends, I liked the present "Valley of songs" (in Lithuanian „Dainų slėnis") where three springboards for ski jumping were built: small, medium and large. We jumped from the smaller one, I was afraid to jump from the large one. When I broke my skis, I had to say goodbye to skiing.

In autumn, we collected acorns from which mother made coffee. We stole apples in others gardens (there was no ours).

I did not finish the seventh class because I had to begin working. 15 January, 1948 I began to work in „Varpas" printing house (in Lithuanian "Bell"). I was only 13 years and 8 months old.

Therefore, my happy childhood ended. The everyday labour life began, and it defined my future.

ADOLESCENCE (1948-1953)

As well as each person had, my adolescence proceeded not for long (only 6 years). During this time, the maturing children graduated from school, fell in the first love, chose their own way of life. Everything in my life was in a different way. I had to mature earlier, than many others did.

1948 – me and my friends (I am the first on the right)

So, my working "career" which proceeds to this day began 15 January, 1948, and it will probably end when my course of life breaks.

That day mother brought me to Gediminas Str., 35 where the „Varpas“ printing house was located since pre-war years. The printing house was very small: several big printing machines on which it was necessary to serve manually each sheet of paper, and only one semi-automatic machine "Europe" where it was necessary to load paper and to start it. There were also several small automatic and one manual printing machines. There was a big rotational printing machine in a certain room on which newspapers were generally issued. In printing house about one hundred people worked – almost all of them were elderly people who worked here since pre-war years, and only a few of them were young workers. Žitinevičius was the Director of Printing House, and Astrauskas Managed the Printing Shop.

I was accepted to the printing shop as a pupil; and they attached me to study working on "Europe". The study was very original and simple. It was necessary to load three piles of paper (50 kg each) in the machine; I had to bring paper from a warehouse that was in the yard. Ten or more loadings I had to make for change. Then the printed-paper should be carried to the binding shop on the second floor of the building, and so on. I had to study working on this machine myself, watching the master's actions.

I was not yet 14 years. According to the labour legislation the workers up to 16 years should work no more than 6 hours in one change; they have to get milk; also, the other privileges have to be provided to them. Nothing it was. I worked for 8 hours in two changes, without any privileges. Moreover, from each pay I had to bring cigarettes and a bottle of vodka to my master, though my salary was small – 48 rubbles.

I tried operation on all the printing machines existing in printing house. After "Europe", I worked on the non-automatic printing machine as "starter" (from the words "start-up paper"). On the desktop of the machine there was the paper pile, and the worker standing on a support, had to take a leaf with his right hand, to intercept it with the left hand and to put precisely to the holders of a shaft which, rotating, pressed paper to the mobile platform where lead forms with the text were placed. It proceeded the whole day. I needed to get used to a machine rhythm because the process passed in case of the operating machine with a very short stop of a shaft.

Then it was the rotation machine, it worked automatically. It was necessary to connect a huge roll of paper (100 kg or more) to the machine and to drag paper with your hands through many rollers (the mechanism was more than

10 m long). The last rollers rotated. One incorrect movement and I could left without hand. It happened almost in such a way. Dragging paper, I stood gaping, and rollers grabbed my hand. The rollers rotated very slowly, but I could not draw out the hand and could not reach the machine switch. It was nobody in the room. I cried at the top of the voice. The worker who accidentally opened the door switched off the machine.

After this state of emergency I was transferred to do less dangerous (as they thought) work in the foundry shop. In an open copper the used lead forms (collected lines of the text from linotypes, the cast matrixes and so forth) melted. It was required to pour liquid lead in certain forms. I did not know about danger of lead's steams, there were no means of protection, so I got sick with a pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no drugs, my mother treated me folk remedies, cooked food with a dog's fat.

The last place of my work in printing house was on small printing machines. I began to work on the manual machine, which we called "American". Various forms were printed on it. Perhaps, the Lithuanian partisans in an underground used such machines. There was paper on the right side of the machine, and the large handle was attached to it. I took paper with the right hand and put it on the table of a press, then I pulled a handle down and released it; I took out a print with my left hand and put it in a heap on the left. During the whole day, you could do 3,000 – 4,000 presses – 10 presses in a minute. Excellent training!

"Torture" ended when I began working on the automatic machine (by the way, it stood near "American"). It was necessary to load it only, then to establish a printing form and to start it. The machine worked without interruption within several hours, it was necessary to look after its work. Such two machines stood nearby; at night, it was possible to have a rest when one worker could look after both machines. And we did so. The security guard of printing house played chess in a perfect way. He taught me to play. Therefore, I left the machine and the friend looked after it while I was playing chess with the security guard for several hours.

I become the machinist (master) and worked until the summer of 1953, when it was necessary to go to the army.

Lionginas Eitmanavičius and I became close friends when we worked at printing house. He was older than I was; he finished vocational school and drew well. He had no housing, and my mother suggested him to live with us. She took nothing for housing, but also she fed him up. He made friends with my sister Rita

who was seven or eight years younger. When Lionginas left for military service (he served five years in the navy), they corresponded, and after he returned from the army, they got married.

In free time, I was fond of sports. Together with my friends we went to the sports ground. Once, carrying out an exercise on a crossbeam, I fell down and broke my leg. I went on crutches. It was in July 1949. At that time in the Kaunas gym (Kaunas sports hall) there took place the boxing championship of the USSR. 14 July, 1949 there were final fights when the well-known Lithuanian champion in a super heavyweight Algirdas Šocikas and the all-around champion of the USSR Nikolay Korolev had to fight. There were about 20,000 fans in the gym, and 12,000 more tried to get inside. I was also in the crowd on my crutches. At the beginning of the fight, the crowd broke the protection (though the order was kept not only by militia, but also by soldiers), then broke the door and rushed inside. I was brought on the heads; and I appeared before a ring. The fight ended in a draw. In 1950, Algirdas Šocikas became the champion of the USSR, and in June 1952, he got his win over N. Korolev. In 1985-1992, I worked at State Institute of Physical Education and we were closely communicating with Algirdas Šocikas. However, I will tell about it later.

It was time when many boys "hurted" with boxing. I have caught boxing too. I began to train, but after several painful trainings I left boxing and sport in general. There was not enough time and endurance.

1950 – me and my family outdoors (I am the last in the middle)

I cannot but mention that in Lithuania during the post-war years there was a fierce fight between the occupiers and Lithuanian patriots. The occupiers continued genocide of the Lithuanian people, its physical and spiritual destruction. As the scientists counted, in 1940-1958 Lithuania lost about 1,100,000 people, considering also the loss of a natural increase of population. More than 300,000 were deported, placed by the Soviet power in prisons and camps. In 1944-1947 about 500,000 people forcedly fled Lithuania. On the other hand, the population and Lithuanian partisans furiously fought against the Soviet army, troops of People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, local Soviet administration, collaborators, party functionaries, etc. During 12 years of fight, (1945-1956) the Lithuanian partisans killed 25,000 people (among them there were 23,000 Lithuanians and 533 soldiers and officers of People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs). At the same time during 1413 fights with the Soviet army and forces of SSC (State Security Committee) 20,101 persons were killed (a half of them were at the age of 16-20 years) and 30, 596 Lithuanian partisans were taken prisoner. 148,000 the members of partisans' families and their assistants (148,000) were deported from Lithuania. The resistance of partisans was cruelly suppressed in 1956. It was the unequal fight; it demanded thousands of the victims – the best men and women of Lithuania. This ten years' fight did not reach a visible victory, but it was not vain. The partisans' spirit, as the banner of freedom, flitted in the hearts of honest Lithuanians and urged to look for other ways of resistance to enslavement. The unaided resistance became the main way of fight for freedom.

However, in the occupied Lithuania there was such an oppressive atmosphere that people were afraid to say publicly at least one word. Nobody was hurt in my family, but I saw well what was going on around me. Our neighbour in the yard, the ordinary bricklayer and the lover of a drink in a pub once said: "Great people die, and I am feeling myself unwell". Actually, some high party functionary just died. These words were enough to accuse the neighbour of anti-Soviet activity and to sentence him to 10 years in prison. He spent all term in prison and returned almost mad. He did nothing; just he sent pigeons. There were thousands of such examples. Therefore, we kept the mouth shut.

In the summer of 1952, I met my future wife Marija Bernotaitė who worked in the shop of the wet equipment at „Drobė" factory. She was surprisingly beautiful and charming. We were acquainted under amusing circumstances. Together with my good friend (it seems, it was the good boxer Žobakas) we often went to

dances (we did not call it "disco" yet). It was that time when we danced in the hall of the Palace of Trade Unions. Standing on a balcony, we saw a girl who was very much pleasant to both. We did not agree who had to invite her to dance. Then we had cast lots on matches – if you draw a long one, you will invite her. I pulled out a long match. It was the destiny. After that, I often took her home. She lived at the very end of Žemieji Šančiai (the district of the city) on XVII Krantas Str., and I had to come back home through the whole city to Savanoriai Ave. (about 10 km). It is understood, that in those days, especially late at night, there was no any transport.

1952 – at the lake Galvė

That summer the „Drobė" factory organized an excursion to the Trakai castle. Many young people gathered and we went to the lake Galvė by several cars. We spent a perfect day though there was no any specific program. I walked around the lake with Marija; we admired the view of the lake and vicinities, water lilies. In several days, we decided to marry, but there were many obstacles for such purpose. Marija's relatives were against – "she marries the Jew" though I was the Lithuanian; even in the day of registration of marriage, they hid her passport and clothes. Marija was not 18 yet, and it was necessary to get permission of the Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies. However, 12 August, 1952 our marriage was registered. It was strange because there were no witnesses. I paid 25 rubbles for registration, received the marriage certificate, and we went to my mother's house on foot. Mother prepared a simple dinner; she put a quarter of vodka on the table. The wedding ended and our long and

happy life began – we have waited for our two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

At first we lived in my mother's house where we had the own room. However, there was a wish to live separately and not to depend on anybody. Thus, we took a room on Vidūnas Ave. The life was very difficult. I remember how cold it was in the room, and Marija asked to put a jacket on her, but she was already in the jacket. Until this time, I had no suit, and I wore something similar to an overcoat for pupils of a vocational school. Marija's mother sewed the first suit for me. Time was going on, and Marija already expected a baby. Therefore we moved to her mother's hovel in XIX Krantas Str. (I am afraid to call it the apartment). It was a room of eight sq.m., built near the pigsty. Two beds, a small table at a smaller window and the stove were located in this room. My wife and I, her mother with the younger son lived in it. 12 June, 1953 my son Vladas was born here. Three months left to the service in the army, and I had to leave the wife with the small child in such conditions.

It was necessary for me not only to work, but also to continue study. In 1948-1950, I finished the seventh and eighth classes of the Kaunas secondary school of young workers No. 1. Then I studied at school of young workers No. 2, in 1953 I finished the 11th class and received the school-leaving certificate. Not only the youth, but also the 62-year-old woman studied in our last class. Those who wanted to work at some more or less decent position or sought to graduate from high institution had to get secondary education.

1953 – the 11th graduation class of school of young workers No. 2 (I am the first on the right in the lower row)

I already was 19 years old, and it was time for me to go to the army. Even now, I cannot answer the question why I have chosen the officer's profession, why I have decided to come to the military scool. I never thought that I would do military service in the occupational army, which used not only for reflection of enemies. However, after World War II nobody thought to attack the Soviet Union, its communistic governors everywhere looked for enemies who prevented to carry out their imperial plans. But God has disposed of my destiny in such a way that my divisions and regiments in which it was necessary to serve never participated in so-called "hot spots" where human blood was shed, and fire of my mighty weapon hit only the educational targets on grounds and in training centres. The service was difficult, but I served well. My awards confirm it; I have received them for excellent results of firing practice of my regiment and my artillery of division during manoeuvers and tactical exercises of the Carpathian and Belarusian military districts. I was a strict, but fair commander, kind for the soldiers. 40 years later the dozens of letters confirm this fact – in these letters, my former soldiers call me "Batia". However, it was as it was.

The next stage of my life began. It was the service in the Soviet army that lasted for 32 years. 40 years later after the restoration of independence in Lithuania, my experience and acquired knowledge found application during the creation of the Lithuanian army and its only forge of officers – the National Defence School, and later – the Military Academy of Lithuania.

SERVICE IN THE SOVIET ARMY (1953-1985)

LENINGRAD ARTILLERY SCHOOL

In 1953-1955, I studied at the Leningrad Artillery School. It was difficult to study because I knew Russian badly and I had not enough knowledge of mathematics, physics, chemistry without which the artillery science is unthinkable. It was necessary to catch up – I had to do this many times in my further military service.

We were taught many subjects: tactics of artillery and the general tactics, shooting and fire control of artillery, history of artillery and the general military history, ballistics, engineering, fire service, shooting from small

arms and, of course, physical training, mathematics, physics and many other things. In addition, we were taught well because there was enough acquired knowledge for many years and for all official categories – from the commander of a platoon to the battalion commander.

We were lucky that all three platoons of the battery were staffed by cadets of the same year of study; that is why we did not experience those mockeries from so called "old men" from which young soldiers suffered. Those cadets who were already doing military service were appointed as the Staff Sergeants, Deputy Commanders of Platoons and Section Commanders. In the cadet battalion (3 batteries of three platoons), there were only two cadets from the Baltic republics – Laus, the Estonian, and me. Nevertheless, everybody treated us friendly though we sometimes did not understand what was required of us. For example, in the first evening in our new barrack after evening checking the Staff Sergeant ordered to hang up on beds (in legs) "birki". I did not understand, what does it mean (I did not know that in Russian "birka" is a table, but not a penis as in Lithuanian). I did nothing until I saw what the other cadets were doing.

I am a cadet

My best friends – Alexey Krivobokov, V. Liashkovich, the Estonian Laus, Gennady Antipov, Oleg Khasin

The Sergeant A. Krivobokov is the Deputy Platoon Commander; the Sergeant V. Liashkovich is a Squad Commander; Laus is the Master of Sports in Weight Lifting and Greco-Roman Wrestling; G. Antipov is the Master of Sports in Shooting – he taught me to shoot; O. Khasin's parents accepted my wife who arrived to Leningrad.

A platoon is on a three-day march – the Commander of a Platoon Captain Skudarinov is in the middle

The rest for cadets was well organized. In the beautiful White hall, the concerts of amateur and professional collectives were arranged. The school was located in the very centre – in Moskow Str., 17; there was the Technological Institute on the other side of the street where the girls mostly studied. In student's amateur performance the future pop star, Edita Piekha sang, and I managed to see her at one of concerts. There were dances after the concert, where the orchestra of school played.

I did not spend time for nothing and visited all the museums of the city. I visited the Hermitage many times (The Winter Palace), the Mariinsky Opera Theatre, etc. The collections of the Hermitage and the Russian Museum impressed me greatly. It was possible for hours to stand at such masterpieces as K. P. Briullov's picture "The last day of Pompeia", Aleksandr Ivanov's "The Appearance of Christ to the people" (a separate big room is given to this picture where all the sketches of this masterpiece are exposed), etc.

The different events organized in school were very original. For example, during morning exercises it was necessary to run 3 km. The length of perimeter around the school territory was the same. It was just necessary to take the cadets out of the gate of school and to give the command to run. You can run or walk, but you cannot reduce the distance and be late for breakfast, especially for classes you had no right to be late. So all the cadets ran perfectly after a while.

As I had a family, I could go home on the first winter vacation. The 1954th year I met together with my family in Kaunas in the new apartment, which my wife Marija got. When she could not freeze in a hovel with the small baby any more, she went with him to the Chairperson of the District Executive Committee and asked for an apartment. He told her that there were no apartments. Then Marija took off swaddling clothes from the child, sat closer to the radiator and said that it was warm here, and she would not leave from here until she got the apartment. The housing question was simply resolved. Marija's strong nature saved our family more than once.

Marija arrived to Leningrad in winter, and Oleg Khasin's family kindly welcomed her. I could go to the wife after classes. For the first time I saw the TV there (the small screen which was increased by a glass lens standing in front of it).

For the second time Marija went to me in 1954 when I was in the summer camp in Luga. There she was accepted to work as the waitress in the officers' canteen. She still knew Russian badly therefore her ridiculously pronounced words sounded funny. For example, sausage she called as "Kilbasa" (in Russian «колбаса»). And the officers nicknamed her "Kilbasa". We lived in the provided dugout (of course, I came only in free from classes and other events time; mostly after the evening check) and cadets lived in tents.

I remember that there were many mosquitoes in the camp, it was necessary to protect yourself by anti-mosquito liquid, which was provided by the first-aid station of the school. Cadets even composed the song: "In the camps there are mosquitoes, saws, a rake and axes and there is a work till a night-time..."

Do not think the cadet's life was easy. We learned well to endure the hardships and deprivations of military service. For example, during the three-days exercises with live shooting, it was necessary to dig trenches in clay soil, shoot, change firing positions, to make a march on 300 km. to the Pskov firing ground, and there to dig trenches again, shoot, etc. When we

got into cars, we thought we would have a rest. Soon we received the order: "Tanks! Cars are broken!" Then several tens of kilometres, we dragged guns on themselves. Then we got into cars again. We wanted to eat, opened cans, but the command "Gas!" interrupted food. What kind of food can be in gas masks? When finally on the Pskov firing ground we dug out trenches for guns and prepared to shoot, I laid down by the wheel of a gun and fell asleep. My friends woke me up and said that it was time to go. I could not hear anything because while I was sleeping, the guns fired ten or more times. The hearing recovered in a few days, there was an easy concussion.

On the firing position

It is necessary to be able to cook porridge

There was another curious case, when it was necessary to jump into the water from a ten-meter tower. Nevertheless, I lived near two largest Lithuanian rivers, but I could not swim. When the Platoon Commander Captain Skudarinov ordered to jump, I told that I could not swim. Then he took me by the hand and ordered to jump together with him. I have nearly drown him, but I carried out the jump. Later, studying in military academy, I had to learn to swim because in accordance with the program of academy, it was necessary to swim 100 meters for the standard period of time or without time. I have accomplished the task.

In winter of 1955, the cadets went in military units to train as the Platoon Commanders. I got to the 8th Infantry Division stationed near Tallinn (Estonia). I remembered several episodes. The soldiers slept on straw mattresses, and they should learn well how to transform them into rectangular "bricks". For the first time I saw how soldiers sorted out the relations. In huge canteen, like a stadium in size, the soldiers of several regiments fed at the same time. Once a terrible fight began and the big scoop was the main weapon. By the way, infantrymen were fighting. The Artillery Regiment did not participate in such "battles." In my further service artillerymen behaved much better, I would tell, more intelligent because they were more educated. Only well-educated people were sent to the artillery (of course, there were different people, even those who could not write), and the use of collective weapon, such as artillery, required coordinated actions. It often influenced the relationship between the soldiers of the military collective.

These and other similar events have taught me to love and respect people – subordinates or non-subordinates. I always demanded this from the subordinate officers; therefore, my soldiers respected me everywhere. They called me "our captain" on Sakhalin, in the Lviv regiment – "our dad" ("Batia"). It is no wonder that 40 years later, my former soldiers founded the group in social network Odnoklassniki.ru – "The 849th Yassky Self-propelled Artillery regiment," and opened the website "We Served under Kisinas' Command." No any other regiment and no any other officer had such group and such website.

My study was over, and the long and difficult officer's service began. Young Second Lieutenants were sent to the military units, which were in many military districts. I was lucky because I got to the Baltic Military District with the headquarters in the Latvian capital Riga. Not all the others were so lucky. For example, my good friend, the Deputy Platoon Commander Alexey

Krivobokov went to the Turkestan Military District; and there – to the division deployed in Kizyl-Arvat. It was a proverb: "What did God create a hell for, if there is Kushka and Kizyl-Arvat." Desert, mountains and a terrible heat. The most important thing is that it is an irremovable area. Those who got there, stayed there. I met Alexey 13 years later in Leningrad when I was studying at the Academy, and he came to the Central artillery courses. He stayed to serve in Kizyl-Arvat, though he has served to the Artillery Battalion Commander.

BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT (1955-1962)

I arrived in the headquarters of the Baltic Military District in Riga. There, after they learned that I had an apartment in Kaunas, I was appointed as the Battery Management Platoon Commander of the 64th Artillery Regiment of the 29th Motorized Rifle Division. The regiment was situated in red barracks Žemieji Šančiai, in ten minutes of walking from my house. It was a miracle – after school the officer came to the service at the place of residence, next to his house.

Everything happened on service. When it was difficult, the skilled officers, who had felt horrors of the front, helped. They used to care for young commanders. The Senior Officer of the Battery (the Commander of the First Fire Platoon) the Lieutenant Khudiakov was one of them. However, there were also officers, especially those who held high positions but did not really cared for subordinates; sometimes they acted precipitately, without thinking of consequences. It was, for example, at the beginning of February 1956, when the commander withdrew the regiment to the Lelaste training ground (near Riga) for practice shooting. There was a strong thaw; it even rained. Nobody was interested in weather forecast and nobody provided soldiers with warm clothes. A few days later, when we got wet, a terrible frost struck – 42 degrees below zero. We had to stop fieldwork. We sat out in tents within three days, warmed at stoves, which were heated by firewood, until warm clothes and felt boots were brought.

Those years the soldiers still were armed with secret Kalashnikovs assault rifles. There was a strict arms control, and I had to check weapon constantly, but I could not notice in time that one of the soldiers lost a bag with three magazines for cartridges during the exercises. I always checked weapon after

returning from exercises, but I paid no attention to the fact that one of the soldiers always stayed in the tent to heat the stove, and the soldier who lost a bag used it. For a long time we were looking for it on places of exercises, but found nothing. We returned to the barracks in Kaunas. The Regiment Commander summoned me and ordered to go together with the soldier to the training centre and to look for a bag with magazines. Three days we dug out places for exercises and returned to the regiment with nothing. It was a good lesson for the young officer.

There were also "absolutely stupid" officers and even generals, especially those who were lucky in the service because they had the strong rear – the so-called "generals' sonnies." Once, being on duty in the regiment, I have met the general who has arrived for check. He asked: "How many chimneys are there on the barracks' roof?" Who counted them? I answered that I did not know. The general called the Regiment Commander and shouted: "How can it be that the officer on duty does not know how many chimneys are there? And if there is a fire?" I still do not understand how knowledge or ignorance of chimneys' number is related with fire extinguishing. But the officers have counted chimneys.

At the beginning of May, the artillery troops went to the summer camp on the Gaižiūnai training ground where we studied until September. There was a strict order in the Regiment. At 6:00 – rise (and the same for officers). Then there were morning exercises for the officers and their subordinates. And it is the whole day. Commanders checked the subordinated officers' abstracts of studying during the morning formation. There was almost no free time. Sometimes the officers were allowed to go home on weekends.

It is me, Neris River and Gaižiūnai training ground

In 1955-1956 reduced the army: in 1955 – by 640,000 and in 1956 – by 1,200,000 people. The officers were dismissing despite merits and a length of service; it was often in a year or several years prior to retirement. Of course, without pension. The mood was nasty. And this propaganda… Newspapers and radio advertised the Colonels who were looking after pigs. I gave in to this mood too and wrote the official report on dismissal from the service, but I was refused – "you are young, you have to serve."

In June 1956, the 16th Lithuanian Division located in the Northern Town of Vilnius was disbanded. The 29th Motorized Infantry Division was transferred on its place from Kaunas. A part of soldiers from the 16th Division was distributed to other units with military equipment. Thus in our regiment tractors of guns on the American Studebakers were replaced by the soviet ZIS. Together with cars, the excellent Lithuanian drivers arrived.

It was in autumn 1956; and in summer there was panic in Kaunas because 12,000 men were unexpectedly mobilizing; they replenished the 29th Motorized Infantry Division located on the Gaižiūnai training ground to wartime staffs. A few days later, the formation of the division was completed, and the inhabitants of Kaunas who in hundreds went to Gaižiūnai calmed down. It was just military practice.

According to the plans of mobilization, all the cadre officers were appointed to get the higher positions. I was appointed as the Commander of the Battery. All the soldiers (about 80) and other officers were drafted from the reserve. Many of them passed the front-line school, they respected and protected commanders – their lives depended on them. I was the youngest at an age in the battery, but felt their respect and care immediately. I was surprised in the first day when I woke up and found a warm water for washing; they always brought me food from the field kitchen, etc. They took care of me, and I tried to provide them with everything. It was such a mutual school, which had a great impact on my further service.

I have already mentioned the armed resistance in Lithuania on page 31. In 1956 this resistance was suppressed by the power of the Soviet army and chasteners (forces and troops of KGB – Committee for State Sequrity, CSS – and the Ministry of Internal Affairs), but nothing could stop the Lithuanian people's aspiration to freedom and independence. They showed such aspiration by these or those methods. It was in autumn 1956, when the anti-Soviet uprising took place in Hungary (the so-called Hungarian revolution) which ended after the occupation of Hungary by the Soviet troops on 10 November. As a result, 2,000-

3,000 Hungarians and 750 Soviet soldiers perished, thousands of people received wounds, and about a quarter of one million became refugees.

In the evening of "The Day of All the Sacred Faithful" (in Lithuanian „Vėlinės", the day after "The Day of Saints") in 1956 at the old cemetery of Kaunas (in Lenin Ave. of that time) the spontaneous action of solidarity with the Hungarian revolution arose. People were going to pay a tribute to the buried relatives here. Late at night, after nightfall, the audience spontaneously fastened the Lithuanian tricolour from scarves, and one young man climbed on the monument to "Killed for their Motherland", picked it up and shouted: "Freedom to Lithuania!" The demonstration of protest formed here. About 2,000 people participated in the procession. The authorities, being afraid that the Hungarian events could repeat in Lithuania, ordered the soldiers to block adjacent streets and to disperse crowd. The procession stretched along Vytautas Ave. to the building of the Kaunas department of CSS, then past the Cathedral to Saint Michael the Archangel to A. Mickevičius Str. Here two rows of the soldiers armed with submachine guns blocked the way. They did not try to disperse the demonstration openly, but they arrested the straggles of the crowd and took them away in covered trucks. A hundred and five persons were arrested, and then 124 participants of "The Day of All the Sacred Faithful" were condemned for hooliganism (from 15 days to three months of arresting).

At the old Kaunas cemetery the victims of World War I, volunteers of fight for independence of Lithuania, pilots S. Darius and S. Girėnas (in the mausoleum built for them), the first Commander of the Lithuanian army Silverstras Žukauskas, the Prime Minister Juozas Tubelis, the victims of the June uprising of 1941 were buried. The Soviet occupational authorities were afraid of any contacts with historic personalities of the past, patriots whom they called nationalists, enemies of socialism or enemies of the people and they tried in any way to erase them from memory of the people. Therefore, the old cemetery was liquidated by the decision of the Kaunas authorities. In 1956 they began to destroy the monument "Killed for their Motherland" – they cut down the inscriptions, heraldic bas-reliefs, later they enclosed it with a high fence and eventually destroyed it. In 1959, relatives transferred a part of remains of the deceased to other cemeteries, and a part remained in the ground. The same year the Catholic chapel was destroyed; bulldozers demolished the remained tombs, filled up the mausoleum of S. Darius and S. Girėnas (by the end of war and with the approach of the front to Lithuania in 1944 the bodies of pilots were hidden in the basement of the Medical Faculty

of the Vytautas Magnus University. In 1964, the daughter of S. Darius Nijolė Dariūtė-Maštarienė found sarcophagi and, having received the permission of Vilnius, reburied them at the Kaunas military cemetery Aukštieji Šančiai). The park of recreation was designed and equipped on the place of the old cemetery.

There were also others, sometimes-curious cases of unarmed resistance. One night the unusual concert at present Nepriklausomybė (Independence) square woke up the residents of Kaunas. There was a monument to Lenin in the centre of the square. Unknown people plentifully poured the "leader" valerian drops. From all over the city hundreds (or maybe thousands) of cats gathered there and arranged this unusual performance. The city could not sleep until midnight, and significant forces of housing and communal services, firefighters and police eliminated the consequences of the "concert" long enough.

There was a long and difficult way to freedom and independence during three decades until 1989-1991 when resistance spread as a wide river and swept out the invaders from the Holy Lithuanian Land.

However, in 1956 I knew nothing about it yet. There were no any talking in the homes of relatives (except colleagues from service, I had no friends and acquaintances). In general, it was not accepted to talk politics. I had a family, relatives and my service that never left free time for conversations. Therefore, I pass to the description of my life.

Now it is Vilnius, at last. The soldiers received normal barracks, and sixteen battalion officers had beds in separate rooms. There was not any speech about apartments for families as many officers of the 16th Lithuanian Division were demobilized; they remained in their apartments. My wife and son stayed in Kaunas. It was difficult for her to work and look after the four-year-old child, and I decided to help her. I took Vladas to our barracks and slept with him on the same bed. Now I do not understand how I could leave the small child to run around the military camp while I was busy on service. We had meal in the officer's canteen. It could not last long, and I sent the son to a weekly kindergarten.

The housing problems of the officers we somehow solved. The first floors of soldier's barracks were divided into rooms, brick walls were made (we remember the movie "Officers", but the walls were plywood there), and each officer received a room. Then I brought my wife with son and our modest belongings. The son did not want to go to Vilnius: "Mum, we will not go to Vilnius, there are only the Russians there. In Kaunas even the sun is warmer."

I was appointed as the Senior Officer of the Battery, the Commander of the

First Fire Flatoon in 1957, and I was promoted to Lieutenant in 1958.

The construction of houses began. Within a short period, many four-apartment houses with the partial conveniences were constructed. The water was in a column outside.

In 1959 my father Simonas and his son Samuelis, who was 14 years old, visited my family in Vilnius. However my son Vladas was only 6 years old and he spoke Russian badly, but, having a magnificent memory, he read on memory the entire poem "Uncle Steopa" by Sergey Mikhalkov ("Diadia Stiopa"). An hour later the father bothered to listen to it and he thanked Vladas. It was the last meeting with my father. Six years later he died and I didn't even know about his death (I took the examinations in Military Artillery Academy in the Far East – in Khabarovsk).

In summer, as usual, the regiment was in camps in Pabradė, Lelaste (Latvia), Dobrovolsk training centre (Kaliningrad region). We stood several times in 8 km from Palanga, where the regiment learned to shoot at the sea targets. It was a great time. In the morning, we deploy the observation post, firing positions and wait until the ship-tug sails. If the sea motion exceeds the established standards, the ship-tug does not appear. It was not for one day. Of course, we did not sit without any work, but were training intensively without shots. There was enough free time to swim in the sea and to lay on the beautiful beach after a lunch. Together with other officers, we also visited Palanga. Shame, but it was the only time in my life.

Pabradė – the first fighting losses

Pabradė –
"Battery, fire!"

Palanga –
firing at the sea
targets

And again Pabradė – the battery on the march

We really wanted the second child, but the wife could not become pregnant in any way. She was long treated, and, at last, we decided to use sanatorium and health resort rehabilitation. In winter 1960, we had a rest in the Tarkhov sanatorium near Leningrad, not far from the Gulf of Finland. We spent time wonderfully. Marija took mud baths; we visited Leningrad theatres, went skiing and sledging on the Finnish sledge, etc. The treatment helped, and Marija was already waiting for the baby in May.

For the first time in my life, I really wanted to live with a warm bath and without stoves. Therefore, we changed the two-room apartment for one large room with all the conveniences in the common apartment of a three-story house. My family and the lonely neighbour Nina lived in the same apartment.

In 1960, I was appointed as the Deputy Commander of the Battery, and at the end of summer together with the created automobile battalion, I was sent to the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan – to "virgin soil" – to carry grain from the field to elevators. Roads were very bad – the so-called "graders" on which it was possible to go only when there was no rain. During the rain, the automobiles left the road and waited until it was dry. Sometimes it was necessary to carry grain on elevators for 150-200 km, where it was possible to deal with descendants of the exiled Chechens and Ingush. They were awful people and attacked separate machines; therefore, we drove columns. On the shelves of the only farm store there was only canned Russian cabbage soup. During the harvesting, the sale of alcoholic beverages was forbidden. When the harvesting ended, vodka was brought, and it was bought by boxes. Coming back home, I bought a gift to the wife – four cups decorated with flowers (one of them preserved as a memory of the daughter's birth).

23 January, 1961 the daughter Zita was born. When Vladas finished the first class, I took him to Moscow. The beautiful photo of an excursion left. The same year I tried to enter the Military Academy, but the Regiment Commander did not let me do this – "you will have time, there are the older ones."

1962 – it was time to get the rank of Captain, but there was no position of the Battery Commander. The candidate for service in the Far East, on Sakhalin was named. They offered the Captain Anatoly Sokolov, my Battery Commander, to go there. He refused because he did not want to leave Vilnius. Then they offered me to go there under one condition – I had to accept the Battery of Service (transport vehicles, economic section and so forth). Though I was a good artilleryman and I was awarded with the badge "For excellent artillery firing," it

was necessary to agree. And I was not mistaken. I met the Captain Sokolov in Leningrad in 1968 when I studied at the Leningrad Artillery Academy and I was already a Major; he came from Kamchatka (where he got without wishing) on the officer courses. The one who teeth held a good place of service has lost.

1961 – Vladas and Zita

1960; me and Vladas are in Moscow

1961 – my family

THE FAR EASTERN MILITARY DISTRICT – SAKHALIN (1962-1966)

Having received a holiday in July 1962, I said goodbye to the relatives in Kaunas who were very upset because they much heard first-hand about Sakhalin. One of the relatives worked at Sakhalin after war and told that even in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (the centre of the Sakhalin region) bears walked, and there were only wooden sidewalks in the city.

We decided to go by train, to look at the Ural Mountains, Lake Baikal. The trip lasted 7 days. Locomotive dragged the coaches, and though it was very hot, we could not open the window, and we were already black from smoke without it. We were waiting for the steamship within three days in Vladivostok. The best photo of those places has remained – the children in Amur Bay. We said "Good-bye!" to the continent, and another three days we were sailing to Sakhalin. And the daughter was only 1,5 years old!

Vladas and Zita in Vladivostok

Farewell, Continent!

Sakhalin accepted us friendly. The weather was beautiful; it was warm. The Army Artillery Regiment Commander Colonel Chmal announced that he appointed me the Commander of the Service Battery. Realising that it was the end of the career, I said that I was a real artilleryman and showed the badge "For excellent artillery firing", and asked to appoint me the combat Battery

Commander. The regiment was formed by the reduced composition, and there were only two batteries with personnel in four battalions (in others there were only officers). The Regiment Commander agreed. So I accepted the 4th battery with which I "fought" for long three years. It was extremely difficult for soldiers to serve. Every other day they had to serve in the guard and elsewhere. They passed to the afternoon practice after a daily service and then back to the service. I had somehow to brighten up their sad life. Therefore, I organized battery amateur performances in which all the soldiers participated. I wrote verses, and together with the battery musicians, I even composed songs. We had our song, which the soldiers sang in formation. Though we rehearsed in the evening after the service, the soldiers did not complain because they "gave concerts" not only in the regiment, but also in the neighbouring farms where the soldiers could dance with the girls after the presentation. One day we even gave a two-hour concert in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Officers' House.

However, combat training was principal. And the soldiers studied in such a way that the battery became the best around Sakhalin where the Army Corps contained three divisions. Especially they learned to shoot well at tanks with direct firing, though such guns as ours, (a 152-mm howitzer cannon– ML-20, weighing more than 7,000 kg, and projectiles – 43,5 kg) were not really adapted for such shooting. I taught the soldiers to shoot, so that I was appointed to teach shooting all the corps gunners.

The summer was always excellent. Winter was not cold on the Southern Sakhalin, and some officers could even acquire tan. Nevertheless, there was a lot of snow. The doors of the houses opened inside that it was possible to dig a

My battery fired with such projectiles

manhole in snow and to go outside. Once there was much snow in winter that telegraph poles (6 meters) were not visible, and in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk houses were filled up with snow above the first floors.

Now I would like to write about our life on Sakhalin. My family got a two-flat wooden Finnish lodge; having converted it, we had quite decent big apartment. Water was in a column in the yard; all conveniences were outside. It was necessary

War is war, and lunch is scheduled

Shooting is over; it is possible to take breath

Who is cold, and who does not

It is indispensable without a tractor

to prepare firewood for the winter. I got a ration of products for one person, but it was enough for the whole family. The regiment stood in the wood. The nearest settlement was a few kilometres away, and the nearest cities – port of Korsakov or Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk – for 30-40 km. The main road was in nearly 2 km, where it was possible to wait for the bus. It was necessary to have your own transport; therefore, I bought the Izh-Jupiter motorcycle with sidecar. Now together with my wife we could go to the city or to fishing in the Aniva Bay. I fished well though I had no any fishing gear, except a strong fishing line with five big hooks and a lead sinker. You wind such fishing line on a finger; having untwisted, you throw it and wait for twitching (biting). Once I pulled out five- kilogram rudds and even four-kilogram shark – it was unknown where it came from.

There was enough fish and other seafood. Even children caught salmons by the sticks with nails (so-called "gorbusha" – pink salmon).

These fishermen!

The wife has also learned to fish, but much more simply. Sakhalin rivers are very small-sized (knee-deep), but water is very cold. The trout is caught here well. The wife fished together with the girlfriend. One stood with a bucket down the river, and the other, standing higher against the current, shacked up the water with a bag. Each of them brought a bucket of fish.

The son who finished two class in Vilnius began to study in the third. He could hardly speak Russian therefore children scoffed at him. Later I knew that he, going to school, spent three months hiding in the wood. Then he was used to everything and studied well.

A little Kisinaitė also adapted to life well. There were many mushrooms on Sakhalin, and what! Sometimes there were enough 5-6 mushrooms to fill a bucket.

Here it was so lucky!

Zita knew the price of bread

The wife got a job on a fur farm where minks were grown up. They were fed with a fresh salmon from which it was possible "to milk" caviar. So we ate caviar with spoons. The daughter attended the kindergarten located in the same farm, mother brought her there through fields (for 1,5 km). When it swept up in winter, the caterpillar transporter MTL-B transported children and women.

I decided to enter the academy, and there was 1965. The first (and actually the second one because it was not allowed in Vilnius) attempt was unsuccessful. Trial examination was on Sakhalin. Then the regiment was in the winter camp. Everything has swept up, the road is not visible. Together with my friend (the friend also wanted to pass examinations), we asked the Regiment Commander to release us on examinations. He answered that he had no helicopter (and the cars cannot go), "take skis – and forward!" And we did so. It was necessary to pass 30 km to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and back home the same 30 km. There was no road, only the tops of telegraph poles were sticking out. Fortunately, the transporter, that was adapted to the northern conditions was passing by and took us. I passed examinations, but entrance examinations had to be taken in Khabarovsk. I was badly prepared, received the three at examinations and failed to compete. By the way, my father died at that time, but my mother, knowing that I was taking exams, did not tell me about it. So I didn't say goodbye to the father.

It was necessary to make a fresh start. I had enough persistence and patience to read all the textbooks, to solve tasks of all possible books of problems several times. And I already was slightly more than 32 years old. The Academy admitted the entrants for full-time studies only up to 32 years. I wrote the official report about training at correspondence department. However, when I passed examinations perfectly well, the Chairman of the Examination Committee the General of the Leningrad Artillery Academy Blagorazumov offered to enter the full-time department. It was impossible to refuse. It was 1966, and Leningrad was ahead.

LENINGRAD MILITARY ACADEMY (1966-1970)

We left Sakhalin by plane. We visited parents in Kaunas and went to Leningrad. The first question was – where to live? In the apartment market (it was such a market in Leningrad) one woman approached and offered two rooms

in her own house in the settlement of Volodarsk in 30 km from Leningrad. It was not necessary to choose. So, for a year while I was studying at the first course, I went to lectures by electric train.

Study was given well, especially mathematics, physics, English, and among military sciences – artillery and missiles, tactics. It was difficult with physical training therefore it was necessary to train much. For example, the classmates went to smoke during breaks, and I went to hang on a crossbar. Soon I could do chin-ups 20-30 times.

There was a strict regimen in academy: six lectures, after a lunch – three hours of obligatory self-preparation in the classroom or in special audiences. Some listeners used it: registered on a blackboard that they were preparing in some special audience, they left the academy. I did not use such "privileges", and I tensely prepared for lectures and even helped other listeners of our group with many main and non-basic subjects. I found a way to avoid them. I tried to raise a hand several times during the training course; I answered the questions of the lecturers well, and it was enough that credits were set off automatically. So I didn't pass almost any credit and could concentrate myself on examinations.

There were 26 listeners in our group, and I was the oldest in age. I was appointed as the Major on Sakhalin, but the Major epaulets were handed in academy.

The wife took care of children at home, and I came back late at night (usually around 19:00). The son was already in the sixth class and he learned to play the

1966 – Major E. S. Kisinas

accordion. However, he had a wonderful ear and sang beautifully, but music lessons have quickly bored, and it was necessary to stop these lessons.

The first course I finished on the five and the Chief of the Course told me that I could graduate from the academy with a gold medal. It meant a hard work in the remaining three years of study. I cannot boast of special abilities and excellent memory, therefore I carefully wrote down lectures and spent much time at self-preparation. The teachers were good, often it was enough notes of lectures and there was no need to read additional literature. There were such teachers among them as the artillery course lecturers Colonels E. K. Malakhovsky, A. S. Krukovsky, Lieutenant Colonel A. K. Epikhin (who is already 95 years old, and he is still giving lectures, now in Mikhaylov Academy); the teacher of mathematics, the Doctor of Sciences Valentina Ivanovna Stoyan whom bad listeners were afraid as a fire. The badly answering officer she could call "the fool, the ignoramus, the loafer" and so forth. Nevertheless, we could forgive her everything because she perfectly knew the subject and was able to impart the knowledge.

The listeners were provided with accommodation after the first course. Many of them got the room in the hostel (in one corridor there were 16 rooms, one kitchen, one washbasin and a toilet). I and other ten listeners were lucky, we were allocated two-room apartments in a newly built house. The house was far from the centre (30-40 minutes by tram), but close to the forest park (2 km). Therefore, together with Vladimir Konovalov, the best friend from our group, in the mornings we ran in the park to warm up, and in winter we went skiing.

The wife started working as the nurse in the kindergarten, which our daughter Zita attended. Zita went to study in the first class in 1968. Vladas finished the seventh class of the secondary school in 1968 and entered the Leningrad Suvorov Military School but he did not finish study and left it because he did not want to be the officer. He graduated from school in Lviv.

Zita in the first class

Vladas in Suvorov Military School

Marija in the kindergarten

I spent a lot of time with the wife and children at cultural leisure, visited the museums, theatres, rested in magnificent parks.

Every summer study continued in the Academy camp in the Luga training centre. There were tactical exercises, artillery firing and fire control and other exercises. In a large sports complex with the 25-meter pool I learned to swim and passed mandatory swimming standard (100 meters without time). It was possible to visit the family on weekends.

All the listeners of our group successfully graduated from Academy. Their fates were different. Major Boris Alekseyevich Plyshevsky reached the highest possible level of an artillery officer. He got married the daughter of the Land Force Missile and Artillery Commander, the future Marshal of the Artillery G. I. Peredelsky, therefore he served to the Colonel General, and finished the service as the Chief of the same Academy. However, his fate was tragic. In 1986 after the terrible Chernobyl accident, he was the Vice-Chairman of the State Commission on Elimination of consequences of this accident, received a very high dose of radiation, lost one eye, and he died of severe radiation sickness 23 November, 2015. My remarkable friend Vladimir Konovalov, who early became the General, as well as the General L. P. Semko, Colonels V. A. Yasiuchenia, S. Sh. Brilman, N. I. Kulakov, Lieutenant Colonel V. V. Tiuriutikov also died. V. F. Chursin became the General. The others served the determined time and reached various heights of the military career; they stepped over a 70-year-old line, and now they live the life of military pensioners.

Listeners of our group

Graduates of command faculty of 1970 (in the centre the Colonel General G. I. Peredelsky, I am the fifth on the right in the first row)

I have achieved the planned goal. I graduated from the Academy with a gold medal in 1970. Medallists had the right to choose a place of service, and I hoped to serve abroad. However, I did not know about the confidential order according to which it was forbidden to send abroad Lithuanian, Latvians, Estonians and Jews officers and to appoint them to general positions. Thus, I had to say goodbye to my dream.

For the second time the Academy brought me together with the General M. E. Kholodenko. For the first time we met on Sakhalin; being the Colonel, he served as Army Corps Rocket and Artillery Chief. There he recognized me as good artilleryman, repeatedly appointed me the head of methodical trainings of officers; when I already was the Deputy Commander of Artillery Battalion, he involved me in the exercises of the corps headquarters. In Leningrad, being already the General and the Deputy of the Carpathian Military District Rocket and Artillery Chief, he was the member of the State Commission of the Academy. Not without his efforts, I was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the 849-th Artillery Regiment of the 24-th Iron Motorized Infantry Division to Lviv, though usually the officers were indicated only the military district or a group of the Soviet troops in foreign countries. Therefore, I did not have to go to the headquarters of the district, but I had to introduce myself to the Regimental Commander directly. In 1970, I got the rank of the Lieutenant Colonel, but I knew about it at a new duty station.

CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT (1970-1985)

LVIV – the 849th ARTILLERY REGIMENT (1970-1977)

Together with my family, I came to the capital of the Western Ukraine, the city of Lviv. It is a large beautiful western city where more than 700,000 people currently live. The central city street – Liberty Str. (Laisvė) is similar to Kaunas Laisvė Ave. (Avenue of Freedom) not only by the name. The avenue lined on both sides with trees and flowers; the wide carriageway, on which military parades and demonstrations were passed, surrounds it. The history of the Western Ukraine at the time of the third Soviet occupation is similar to the history of Lithuania. However, the active resistance to Sovietization and armed struggle were suppressed here in 1950 (active partisans' struggle in Lithuania –

1957). However, I knew nothing about it because I almost did not communicate with local population (there was no time).

I had some more days of a holiday, and my future regiment was on the field trainings, therefore we stayed at the military garrison hotel. Lviv met us unfriendly. The shelves of grocery stores were empty: in Odessa region and in other southern areas of Ukraine cholera raged therefore provisioning has stopped. We bought an electric tile, a pot and potatoes, cocked and ate. Nothing more was found.

When the regiment came back, I introduced myself to the Regiment Commander – the Colonel Nikolay Yakovlevich Makarenko. For a long time I felt his distrust to me. He is "an old front wolf", the veteran of the regiment, served in a Horse and Artillery Regiment (there horses were the principal pull); he did not graduate from the academy, though he did not need of it. Here is one episode from the regiment trainings with combat shooting. After returning from reconnaissance, he told me: "Write down the coordinates of the targets" – and dictated (I could not believe my eyes – he dictated five-digit numbers on memory!) The soldiers were shooting according to these coordinates, and they were shooting precisely! The regiment shooting was rated "good". That was my commander and teacher. Moreover, I tried to be worthy of him.

The Artillery Battalions Commanders were experienced artillerymen too. Everybody knew the business well. I should gain their trust. However, gradually the ice of distrust melted, and it helped to create united regimental collective. In the regiment, after the command post exercises of the 24th Iron Motorized Infantry Division, which included the Artillery Regiment, I was handed the epaulettes of the Lieutenant Colonel just in the field.

For some time we lived in the one-room apartment, but a few months later, I was provided a three-room apartment. The son studied in the 10th class and the daughter was in the 3d one.

The service was developing well. However, I recoiled in horror from the news that during the preparation for the Minister of Defence trainings in the Lviv Training Centre, the Regiment Commander got into a car accident and was badly injured. I had to replace him immediately. However, everything ended perfectly, and I believed in my own strength. The others also believed. The officers of the Leningrad Artillery Academy attended the exercises and offered me to work there, but I was not released.

In 1970-1973, the Colonel General G. I. Obaturov for whom the combat readiness and combat training of parts and formations were the principal index

The Commander of the 849th Artillery Regiment Colonel N. Y. Makarenko (the 3rd on the left) and the Chief of Staff of the Regiment Lieutenant Colonel E. S. Kisinas (the 4th on the right)

was the Commander of the Carpathian Military District. The troops of the district intensively studied those years, and the artillerymen studied too.

In Lviv the destiny brought me together with the District Rocket and Artillery Chief Nikolay Yefimovich Kholodenko for the third time, now he was the Lieutenant General. In 1972, the Regiment Commander N. Y. Makarenko was appointed as the Rocket and Artillery Chief of the 24th Iron Division. According to N. Y. Kholodenko's representation, I was appointed as the Commander of the same regiment and asked a serious question: "Is it true that your father went to Israel?" It was necessary to explain that my father died in 1965 and was buried in Kaunas. As the future Regiment Commander, I had to pass many instances: the meeting of the Military Council of the district, an interview in the Ministry of Defence in Moscow. Eventually, everything ended well, and I began a long and difficult way.

The regiment consisted of three battalions with three batteries in every one. There were six units of howitzers in the battery: 122-mm (D-30) or 152-mm (D-1). In total – 54 howitzers, about 200 vehicles and nearly one thousand soldiers, sergeants and officers. It was difficult to lead such a regiment, but also it was pleasant when I saw the results of my work. In the history of the regiment there were both white and black stripes.

White stripes – when the regiment studied, "forged" combat skills, improved them in the training centres, in the field – in other words it did everything the military men should do.

1973 – the regiment formation inspection

Black ones – when the regiment or some of its separate units turned into a construction team and despite this fact the results of combat training were demanded of it. The same thing happened when the Colonel General Vladimir Ivanovich Varennikov became the Commander of the Carpathian Military District in 1973, and the Colonel K. A. Kochetov became the Commander of the 24th Division. The construction boom began in the District, and commanders of the units were evaluated mainly because of the construction results. My regiment was located in the excellent place (Striyskaya Str.) and on the large territory, and the 7th Motorized Rifle Regiment was in more worse conditions. And V. I. Varennikov decided to change the shelves in places, and then to build the sample military camp on the place of my regiment. And my artillerymen who were forced out from barracks to the tent town should build it. When the weather became cold, all the soldiers were placed in the hall of the regimental club (four-tier beds, storage of weapon was on the club stage, washbasins and toilets were outside). Only the dining and medical centres left in the regiment; there the headquarters and services of the regiment were placed. The Regiment Commander arranged an office in the staff car. However, even in such conditions the regiment studied (more correct – officers and the main experts studied, and one battery trained once a week, when other batteries worked at the construction). The Division Commander was not interested in questions of combat readiness and combat training, but every evening on building sites, I had to report on the work done on the construction.

When we were not necessary on construction any more and final works on the equipment of the military camp were performed by construction battalions, the regiment (at last!) was removed to the training centre where we were more than six months. Here all the soldiers, sergeants and officers of the regiment felt themselves the real soldiers and they learned to shoot and control the fire of artillery in the afternoon and even at night.

In 2016 on the website of social network Odnoklassniki.ru there was V. I. Varennikov's article in which he tried to justify his support of the State Committee on the State of Emergency in 1991 with the desire to stop the collapse of the USSR. After this publication comments appeared in which V. I. Varennikov's personality and his activity were eulogized. I wrote: "I know from personal experience that he is "the narcissistic despot". When I began to be offended, I described several episodes of V. I. Varennikov's activity. "In 1973, when he arrived in Lviv for Command of the Military Ddistrict, in this huge city he established such an order: when he went to service in the morning, all the traffic stopped, and all the Military patrols (there were many of them) welcomed him on his way, saluting. It continued until the regional party leadership stopped this "activity". V. I. Varennikov liked to fish, and on one lake of the Lviv training ground, his personal fishing place was arranged. The lake was guarded by the armed soldiers who once shot the accidentally come fisherman." After my response, the article and comments were gone in social networks.

I could also add that in 1991, V. I. Varennikov was involved in actions of the Soviet troops that captured the Vilnius television centre when 14 men were killed and more than 700 people were wounded. Mikhail Gorbachev's assistant Anatoly Cherniayev repeated that the decision to use the army was taken personally by V. I. Varennikov without prior agreement with the President of the USSR.

But, the time came to exchange the military towns. It had to occur before the New Year and I received the family permit to the sanatorium of Abkhazia's capital Sukhumi. I had to decide what to do. It is known, that the Russian tsar Peter I introduced the following procedure: he personally appointed a regional commander, allowed him to command a year or two, and then he sent him to a long vacation. If during this time the regiment did not run up, the tsar left him in a position; otherwise he sent the commander in reserve. I trusted the regiment and its officers; having got the permission of the Division Commander, I went with my wife to improve health. When I came back, I found the regiment in the

new town on Bozhenko Str. The resettlement took place without reproaches. Then it became clear for the leadership that it was possible to trust E. S. Kisinas and his regiment.

Now I would like to write about white strips of the regiment and my service. It required much work to restore well-organized ensemble of the regiment. It is easy to teach gun section to shoot – with a good training it can be achieved in a few weeks. It is more difficult with a team of artillerymen. The battery can be compared to a small ensemble of musicians. The Artillery Battalion or even the regiment is like a symphonic orchestra in which any false note could not be sound. Many different specialists participate in shooting practice of the regiment: regimental and battalion staffs, scouts of various specialities, liaisons, counters, batteries and platoons' commanders, commanders of guns, loaders, etc. To make this "orchestra" play flawlessly, it requires many efforts in classes, parks of military equipment, in the field exercises. It was better to do in the training centres, where artillery was taken out for the whole summer and one winter month for exercises and live shooting. There was a lot of work because in those years there were no computers, routers and other necessary means for fire control. It required to manage the available means, and often to create own ones. The means of communication and intelligence facilities were also bad.

The training of the officers in firing from the closed firing positions took a lot of time when "the shooting commander" was on the observation post, and fire platoons were on the firing positions for several kilometres. It was necessary

The Regiment Commander manages fire in the field exercise

to determine coordinates of the targets and firing positions with accuracy within tens of meters, to calculate the data for firing, to prepare and transfer a command, to observe projectile explosions and to adjust the fire according to their deviation from the target. It was necessary to shoot in different conditions – day and night, in clear day or during a rain and snowfall, etc. The ability to shoot well was a real art. It takes a lot of time and effort to become an artist. Although I was the champion of artillery firing in military school and academy, but after graduating from the military school I tried to get a rank of the best gunner of the Baltic Military District within six years; I became a winner of the artillery – shooting contest among Sakhalin battery commanders. That is why I could and should to give my officer's knowledge and experience; I trusted nobody to train officers and spent the most of time on artillery range of a rifle simulation, which was equipped in the military town. We lost a rifle range with exchange of military towns and on the limited area we had to build a large building in which we equipped a pistol range. We often held trainings in the field shooting with the use of different imitations (explosive packages, etc.). Located in a huge city, it was necessary to look for highway in the flat areas sections of terrain where it would be possible to train batteries and battalions.

I managed to prepare the regiment in such a way that we were not afraid of frequent inspections at all possible levels – from the division to the General Inspectorate and the Ministry of Defence. The results of several major exercises, which were headed by the Minister of Defence A. A. Grechko, demonstrated this. Having started to lead the district, in October, 1973 V. I. Varennikov decided to conduct tactical exercises of the 24th Iron Motorized Infantry Division with combat shooting. At that time, all the regiments of the division trained intensively in the Lviv training centre.

V. I. Varennikov invited the Minister of Defence, who agreed to participate, but ordered to do nothing without him. Suddenly we received the order to return to the places of deployment and prepare for unexpected actions. The minister changed the plan of exercises, and the exercise of one division turned into army exercises with participation of two armies. The exercises were held at Lviv, Rivne and Ignatopol training grounds. The 24th Division was raised in combat alert. It had to make a three hundred-kilometre march along the wet autumn roads. Nearly 100 tanks were stuck in the mud and swamps because of badly organized reconnaissance of routes, but the mediators of the Ministry of Defence informed the minister that the division had concentrated in the specified area in a timely

and full-scale manner. My regiment arrived in time without losses. The active phase of the exercises began. Everything went well until the minister, in his habit, did not mix all the cards. The 274th Infantry Fighting Vehicles Regiment led by the Lieutenant Colonel Igor Nikolayevich Rodionov (the future Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation) had to counterattack on the right flank, and the minister ordered it to do on the left flank. The regiment was on the march, and the closed railway crossing blocked a way (the passenger train "Prague – Moscow" was expected). To wait means not to carry out the task. The Deputy Commander of the Regiment Lieutenant Colonel S. Papenko sent combat vehicles to the both sides of the crossing, stopped the movement of trains and let the regiment to pass through the crossing. The train traffic was stopped for three hours, but nobody learned about it and raised a noise because the exercises were led by the Minister of Defence, the member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU A. A. Grechko. The task was carried out, the regiment attacked perfectly. My regiment accomplished tasks well too. In 1976, in the published book "The Red Banner of the Carpathians" was told that the Minister of Defence highly appreciated the actions of units led by K. A. Kochetov, I. N. Rodionov, E. S.-S. Kisinas... the 24th Division was awarded the pennant of the Minister of Defence. That is what the decisive actions of one-person mean, who is not afraid to take the responsibility. I do not encourage the actions of the officer S. Papenko, because it could lead to sad consequences. But it is necessary to teach officers to act decisively in combat conditions and within the training ground boundaries. It is unacceptable to risk human lives in peacetime.

The second big test was waiting for us during spring manoeuvres of 1975 in Belarus. The 24th Division was developed to wartime states, several thousands of soldiers were called up from the reserve. More than 200 soldiers joined my regiment. Realizing that it would be necessary to overcome more than one hundred kilometres, I asked the military commissar to send drivers to the regiment instead of gunners. So, we replaced our inexperienced drivers, and, having several weeks of time, I asked the reserve soldiers to prepare the machines properly so that they would not stop on the road. Manoeuvres began, and at their final stage, it was necessary to drive more than 200 km for the certain time, to take firing positions on unfamiliar terrain and to be prepared for firing. The route was regulated badly, and each commander tried to arrive as soon as possible to the place, without paying attention to the fact that overtaking of

columns was prohibited. The columns were mixed, one interfered with the other. Then I stopped the regiment, put three armoured personnel carriers at the end of the column (there were no oncoming vehicles because the oncoming traffic was stopped), seizing the entire carriageway, cleared the column of foreign machines and gave the command: "Forward, speed 90!" It was unexpected because usually the motion speed of columns was limited to 30-50 km/h., but the regiment "whizzed" the entire route with such speed. There were no stragglers. We took the indicated positions before the specified time, but it was already night. It was necessary to determine precisely coordinates of the observation posts and firing positions. We used a method of determining of coordinates on an unfamiliar terrain at night, which was not specified in the statutes, but was known from the memoirs of front artillerymen. The topographers of the regiment at three well-identified points (coordinates of which were transferred to performers by radio) outside the artillery positioning area (in order not to unmask firing positions) by my commands, alternately put vertical tracks, firing automatic rifles with tracer bullets. At the firing positions and the observation posts, the observation devices marked tracks (artillery surveying compasses), and further it was a simple geometry – point determination according to the three intersects lines. With the dawn, the regiment fired precisely. The results of artillery actions are always obvious, it is impossible to hide or to improve them.

The real battle school of the regiment was the Luga training ground of the Leningrad Military District, where in which two of three months provided residential educational process of Leningrad Military Academy and the Central Artillery Officer Course. The provision was unambiguous – a battery, a battalion or the whole regiment was firing through listeners exercises. I believed my regiment. During the exercises, which have been trained students from foreign countries (Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, etc.), it was necessary to show the controllability of the regiment and fire control. The listeners showed me the target, and I had to destroy it with the fire of the whole regiment. The regiment acted so well, that after one minute (according to the standards for the assessment "excellent" – 3 minutes) sounded a volley, and projectiles exploding accurately specified locations. During all exercises the listeners applauded, as at a good concert. It was a real regimental concert. The actions were respectively noted in the responses of the academy and the Central Artillery Courses, and Academy Chief Colonel General P. A. Slipchenko presented me with a copy of the still unreleased "Ground Artillery Shooting Regulations" with his dedication.

Battery shooting on Luga training ground

I am proud of my regiment and its soldiers. I always tried that soldiers were provided with everything, fed and properly dressed in accordance with the season and weather conditions so that they were safe to service in the army about which they heard all sorts of horrors. To a regiment. There was a big subsidiary farm in the regiment, where over 200 pigs were fattened; we fed them with canteen's waste and what was collected from several hectares of the regimental land. In the field exercises, especially in the winter, soldiers received an extra piece of fat and a big slice of bread. And in the training centres good living conditions were provided – well equipped tents, the field canteen, wash basins, field toilets, etc. are well equipped. They always washed in a field bath. The soldiers themselves often showed examples of ingenuity. Looking ahead, I will briefly tell how soldiers lived in 1981 during the largest after the World War II manoeuvers with combat shooting "West-81" in one of the Belarusian ranges. The preparations for manoeuvers lasted nearly 3 months – June-August. Nobody could even think that in the middle of the summer the stoves would be required. Suddenly it became colder, long rains began. And one morning I didn't believe my eyes: smoke was stacked over many soldiers' tents – the stoves were stocked. The training fields were equipped with strong points of the conventional enemy on which the targets were placed in accordance with weapons and the equipment of the conventional enemy. There were many cars and armoured vehicles (designed to be destroyed by artillery fire). Soldiers removed the fuel tanks from

cars, turned them into stoves, and chimneys were made of cans (canned food was daily given for food). It was pleasant to see such "masterpieces" of skill and ingenuity. Besides, soldiers, equipping firing positions and observation posts, arranged such shelters and dugouts that they did not want to go to sleep in tents. And after a month of staying at the training ground, the officers invited me to a sauna which they built in the dug hole, using logs of the fallen trees (there was enough wood because the forest was pouring in order to cross the swamps and to equip the positions). Later the officers also used such practice in the places of permanent deployment.

I paid much attention to the rest of the soldiers. The regiment had its own freelance orchestra, which played not only on the formation inspections, but also walking on the city streets, at the concerts of amateur performances. There was a good amateur team, various sports sections in the regiment. Each battery had the TVset, movies were regularly shown and various excursions were organized because in such city as Lviv, there was much to look at.

I can safely say that soldiers paid the same, doing sometimes-impossible things. So, in the Carpathian exercises in 1977 to which for the first time in the history of the USSR representatives of NATO member states were invited, the division overcoming of a water obstacle was shown. Armoured personnel carriers and other floating equipment crossed a water barrier, tanks were transported under the water, and the artillery was transferred on the floating armoured vehicles. The automobile tractor picked up one transporter, a gun picked up the other one. Everything went smoothly, then one transporter with a car swam away, and the other with unloaded gun remained on the shore. The mechanical tug which had to tighten the on it broke in the transporter. A few minutes passed, and the transporter with the loaded gun swam away. Nobody noticed anything. But how four soldiers were able to shove into transporter a howitzer in 3,300 kg, they couldn't explain themselves. They risked their lives. If they could not keep the gun, it would crush them. On the ceremonial regiment formation, I handed to all the soldiers of the gun crew vacation tickets for a trip home. There were many such examples.

Every year the regiment with its military equipment participated in the military parade. The Regiment Commander was going on the service car GAZ-69 (since 1974 – UAZ-469). Numbers of cars were distributed by the military automobile inspection. The number of my car was 18-82 EK (there was an order to appoint numbers with initials of the Regiment Commander – Eugenijus Kisinas).

Regiment at the military parade in Lviv

It was necessary not only to teach the regiment, but to ensure an order and firm discipline. It took a considerable part of time for the Regiment Commander and all the officers. It is known, that in the Soviet army the non-statutory relations were flourished when the soldiers of the senior conscription not only offended the younger ones, but also mocked them. So was not always. I have already told how the soldiers who passed the front-line school took care of junior soldiers, and even about me – their commander. The non-statutory relations in the Soviet army began when in the 60s of the 20th century the former prisoners were called for military service. And, only in 2009 the General Staff of the Russian Federation decided not to call up for military service the young people with the criminal past. I am deeply convinced that it is also possible to cope with this problem. But it primarily depends on the unit commander. If you work in the sweat of your face and do not spare yourself and the subordinate officers, there won't be the offenders of junior soldiers. They were not in my regiment. It was not enough to introduce duty officers in the subunits (though it had to be done), but it was necessary to work hard with all categories of the military personnel and, first of all, with "old men" (the other name is "grandfathers"). It was required to explain thoroughly their rights (to be an example to younger ones) and responsibilities (to carry out more complex tasks), to remind of responsibility for misconduct. For example, they could be later released to the reserve (of course, as far as the rights of the Regiment Commander allow, for example, to put for bad behaviour on a guardroom when the others already left home and so forth). It was necessary to talk with

young soldiers, to convince them that they did not give in to mockeries and they had to inform their commanders. I allowed addressing directly to me. We also worked with sergeants, and even opened the permanent sergeant school for which I made the program and often lectured, conducted the exercises with them because at sergeant schools, they taught specialties, but they taught a little to manage and work with subordinates.

It does not mean that I also forced subordinates to work. As far as it was possible, I established the order of using the off-duty time, on the weekends "the responsible" officers were appointed in the regiment and battalions, I tried to adhere strictly to the vacation schedule, etc. I envy the officers of the Lithuanian army whom you won't see in the units after the termination of working hours, especially on weekends. There is nothing to do in the units on weekends because most of soldiers of initial military service are allowed to go home.

It was seldom, but I tried to relax after all and have a rest with family in the countryside. However, you never know when the senior chief calls you. There were no mobile phones; therefore, you were always attaching to the means of communication. Even when there was no city phone in the apartment, it was necessary to stretch over the roofs of houses the communication line. I have found a way out. On the outskirts of Lviv in the village of Bryukhovichi there were divisional ammunition depots guarded by the soldiers of my regiment. Around them, there was a beautiful forest park, near them – a small lake. I warned the regiment duty that I would check guard in Bryukhovichi and, if necessary, call the guard's commander. I came to the guard, put the car at the guardhouse and warned the guard's commander to bring me if necessary, and the caller said that the Regiment Commander was checking the posts. Thus, in 10 minutes I already was at phone. And, if there was a wish to leave on day off for berries or mushrooms, it was necessary to ask permission of the Division commander. It was the daily life of the Regiment Commander.

In 1975, I received the last (in my service) rank of Colonel. And thank God that I didn't become the General because then I wouldn't serve in the Lithuanian army. The Soviet generals were not taken to the Lithuanian army.

Now about my family. The son Vladas in 1971 graduated from the secondary school and in the same year, he was drafted into military service. He served in coastal artillery of the Northern Fleet for two years. After the completion of compulsory military service, he began professional military service as a Sergeant in my regiment. Having graduated from warrant officer school and received the

1975 – the Colonel

rank of Warrant Officer he was appointed as the Commander of a Fire Platoon in which he served until 1978. On 17 July, 1974 he married the daughter of the reserve officer Tatiana. My daughter Zita finished seven classes in Lviv. The wife did household chores and protected the family hearth.

One more meeting took place with the Colonel General Vladimir Ivanovich Varennikov. On the second day of my son's wedding, (it was on Sunday), the duty of the regiment phoned and informed me that the District Commander called me at 21:00. Probably, it is not necessary to tell that people drink at a wedding. Therefore, I had the whole day to prepare myself and to be in proper form for "visit" to such superior commander. When I arrived at the headquarters, the adjutant of the commander led me to V. I. Varennikov's office. I reported about arrival, the commander invited me to sit down and then asked whether I knew well the territory of the regiment. I answered in the affirmative. Then he asked to tell about the construction sites (they built the equipment storage and the pistol simulation range). Any questions of combat training and so forth. So, we talked for a few minutes, and he let me go.

Only later, I realized that it was a test of how the Regiment Commander looked after the wedding event. Apparently, he was informed, that E. Kisinas celebrated the wedding of the son. I guessed who this informant was. It was my Deputy for Political Affairs Lieutenant Colonel Samsonov, with whom we became friends. We were friends with families; I often went to his house.

There was such a Soviet system. Everybody was tracked, and everything was reported about everybody. There was a Special Department in the division, and in the units, there were the Representatives of this department. The separate office was allocated to him, and I was not interested in what he was doing there. He told me nothing, and I did not look for contacts with him. I assumed that in the subunits he had recruited agents who informed him about everything that happened.

And Lithuania lived the life of the occupied country though the living conditions were incomparably better here, than in the majority of large (not to mention small) cities of Russia and some other Soviet republics. But not everybody reconciled to the occupational regime. Once again, Kaunas stirred up Lithuania (and not only). On 14 May, 1972 in the city garden of Kaunas, at the Musical Theatre, as a sign of protest against the Soviet regime, the 19-year-old Romas Kalanta poured petrol and burned himself. In his notebook there was a record: "Only the system is guilty of my death." The events in Kaunas caused confusion among the members of the Communist Party of Lithuania and SCS (KGB) – in the Soviet Lithuania it was an unprecedented event. The funeral took place on 18 May. The next days over 3,000 protesters went in the streets. For their suppression Over 7,000 voluntary people, militiamen, soldiers were thrown to suppress them. The protesters were caught, shorn, interrogated, beaten, their documents were taken away, protesters, who were more active were imprisoned. Against 50 people were initiated civil, 10 – criminal cases, eight of them were convicted. Antanas Sniečkus, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania tried to convince Moscow that it was insignificant hooliganism as any student participating in the procession was not condemned. R. Kalanta was officially recognized as mentally sick; however, in 1989 the sitting commission at last recognized Kalanta as mentally healthy due to the lack of usual evidence.

Kalanta's self-sacrifice recovered anti-Soviet moods in the republic, gave hope that it was possible to achieve independence. The Lithuanians, who lived abroad, organized commemorative events, published books, stamps, erected the monuments and other memorable symbols in places of the Lithuanian communities gathering. R. Kalanta became the national hero.

And it was quiet in the Soviet Union, and nothing was known about events in Lithuania.

On 18 April, 1975 my first grandson was born – Eugenijus Kisinas who was named in honour of the grandfather.

My first grandson Eugenijus Kisinas

In the summer of 1977 after the termination of the "Carpathians" exercises, the District Rocket and Artillery Chief called me and said that the District Commander wished to see me as the Rocket and Artillery Chief of the 128th Motorized Rifle Division deployed in the city of Mukachevo of the Transcarpathian region. I had to agree (how much could I be the Regimental Commander?). It was promotion, with which the service of the artillery officer ended. One stage of military service ended and another one began – the last stage of military service of the Colonel E. S. Kisinas. I started to prepare for the journey.

MUKCHEVO. The 128th GUARDS MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION

Having received a vocation, I decided to be acquainted with the place of future service. With wife and daughter, I went to Mukachevo by car. We were for the first time in the Carpathians, therefore the travelling through the mountains bewitched. There was no modern road yet, and the old one was not only impressive, but also dangerous: serpentines, sharp turns and a long descent of 7 km, at the end of which after a sharp turn there was a wonderful panorama; it was not necessary to stare because it was possible to fly away to an abyss opened. Later, when it was necessary to go on this road to Lviv or to conduct the artillery on the Lviv training ground, I was not left by concern for the subordinates.

On the way to Mukachevo

We stopped halfway on the highest point of the route (on the pass).

Mukachevo is the second largest city of Transcarpathia, the important industrial and cultural centre located on the river Latoritsa. However, only 85,000 people live in the city, but there is Mukachevo State University and some other higher educational institutions. The city is rich in sights: it is the Mukachevo Castle of the XIth century, St. Nicholas Convent, a monument to "Gypcy with a broom", "White House" – Francis II Rákóczi's palace, etc. There were 17 communities of eleven religious denominations in Mukachevo in 2007; they had more than 30 cult buildings (churches, orthodox churches, houses of worship, three monasteries – Orthodox and Greek-Catholic women's and Catholic men's). The Jewish synagogue was opened in 2006. The nature is incredibly beautiful, especially, when (as in Japan) the Japanese cherry (Oriental cherry) blossoms in spring.

Behind this beauty, we did not notice that in Mukachevo, as well as in many other cities of Ukraine, there were empty grocery stores. It was necessary to reconcile later to the fact that, wishing to buy a litre of milk, you had to get in a queue at six o'clock in the morning and you had to look for bread, without speaking of butter, which you could buy only in the division store.

The 128th Guards Motorized Rifle Division was located in five cities. The division headquarters with combat support subunits (communications, intelligence, etc.), and the 487th Motorized Infantry Regiment on Infantry Fighting Vehicles (BMP) were in Mukachevo. The 327th Motorized Rifle and the 398th Tank Regiments were in Uzhhorod. The 315th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the reduced composition was in Beregovo. The 331st Artillery Regiment stayed in Perechin. The 102nd Anti-aircraft Missile Regiment, Rocket, Jet and Anti-tank Battalions were in Svaliava. It had to become my future «battlefield».

I introduced myself to the Division Commander Major General A. N. Kleymenov (he finished service the Colonel General, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff). He met friendly, and it was so all the time of joint service, when he supported me and helped me to carry out all my plans. Considering that I had a big family (I, the wife, the daughter and the son with his wife and the son), I was given a big (more than 100 sq. m) apartment in the very centre of the city, but at that time, there was an officer hostel for four families in this house. I received one room temporarily, and the family remained in Lviv. In several months, when the apartment was freed, I brought the wife and daughter. My son was still serving in Lviv. It was an old pre-war house where the rich dentist lived. The central heating and all the conveniences were equipped in the house. Now nothing worked, and there was a stove in each room, which was melted with firewood. Only later, we set up the system of heating. At first, the boiler was heated with coal and when a gas pipeline was run along the street – with gas.

The main tasks of my service were the same as the Regiment Commander had – combat training and combat readiness. Only the volume of tasks was immeasurably higher, though it was not necessary to be engaged in economic activity. Now in my subordination there were a small headquarters (5 officers – the Chief of Staff, his deputy and the Chiefs of Intelligence, Communication and Topographical Service); the Battery of Control and Artillery Reconnaissance (already with radar and sound reconnaissance); the Artillery Regiment; the artillery of four regiments; Rocket, Jet and Anti-tank Battalions. The total number of personnel was more than 200 officers, about 2,000 sergeants and soldiers. The artillery consisted of 9 artillery battalions, 33 batteries, 18 separate platoons – mortar and anti-tank guided missiles, etc. There were in total 126 howitzers, calibre of 122-152 mm (among them – 18 self-propelled "Gvozdika" and 18 self-propelled "Akatsiya"); 18 units of 100-mm anti-tank guns; 18 reactive launchers BM-21 "Grad"; 45 mortars of 120-82 mm; 27 combat vehicles of anti-tank guided missiles "Maliutka"; many hand-held anti-tank guided missiles and heavy anti-tank grenade launchers and 4 launchers for rocket "Luna-M".

I listed all this only in order to be able to imagine the scope and the size of the Division Rocket and Artillery Chief's work. The Regiment Commander was always with his regiment and taught it, now it was necessary to devote time and attention to the units located in five settlements. For example, the division headquarters and the Artillery Regiment divided 70 km. Within one day, it was

possible to visit and work only in one unit. Therefore, we could meet only in training centres and on tactical exercises.

First, it was necessary to teach commanders of artillery units and subunits (commanders of artillery regiment and battalions, chiefs of artillery motorized rifle and tank regiments and commanders of battalions, etc.). I was faced with the problem when commanders of motorized rifle and tank regiments focused on motorized rifle and tank battalions, and "specialists" (as artillerymen, engineers and subunits of special forces were called humiliatingly) were the minor, and they were remembered only when something happened or if they did not work well at the time of inspections or exercises. Like my regiment, the artillerymen could use first in economic and other outside works. It was necessary to break this unacceptable practice. The Division Commander helped me to do it. I prepared the order according to which all the artillery and rocket units and subunits had to study every month for 10 days in the Uzhhorod Mountain Training Centre. The Division Commander signed this order. It was the only division in which the artillery constantly studying in the field. According to the established schedule, the battalions of the Artillery Regiment, all the artillery of regiments and battalions, Rocket, Jet and Anti-tank Battalions were alternately displayed in the training centre. There were properly equipped camps of units and subunits with field kitchens, artillery observation posts and firing positions; besides there was constantly operating rifle artillery firing range. Later, when the only one mountain training centre (such centre was not only in the Carpathian Military District but also in other military districts of the European part of the USSR) that differed from the ranges of the North Caucasus and Transcaucasian military districts by landscape, vegetation (there were bare mountains) and also the artillery training field were equipped. The artillerymen received here not only the necessary skills, but also fired from all the calibres of guns and mortars, even launched rockets from the additional trunks installed on launchers. The rifle range worked day and night. The exercises and trainings on fire control of the Artillery Regiment, regimental artillery and all the division artillery constantly passed.

The Artillery Regiment had its own good training base, a good rifle range and later the town of self-propelled artillery was built. In the Artillery Regiment exercises and competitions for commanders of artillery battalions and batteries were held, during which the commanders fired at a rifle range, and during the competitions they fired with live ammunition in the Uzhgorod training centre.

I would not achieve good results in the preparation of the artillery division, if I forgot the commanders of motorized rifle and tank regiments and battalions. My task was facilitated by the demand of the Land Forces Commander-in-Chief: all commanders had to know all the combat equipment (and, therefore, artillery) of units or subunits and to be able to apply it correctly. Under the division leadership-training program the regiments and battalions commanders exercises in the classes and training centre were organized, where the officers not only got acquainted with the artillery equipment and its application, but practically worked with guns and mortars, shot themselves from howitzers (direct pointing) and mortars, started up anti-tank missiles. Much attention was paid to the control of artillery fire. After such exercises, it was much easier to solve all the questions of life and activity of the artillery subunits of regiments and battalions.

It was necessary to give a lot of time and efforts to the Rocket Battalion as the battalion's assessment depended on the assessment of the division. The division could not be rated higher, than the Rocket Battalion could. Therefore, every year the District Rocket and Artillery Chief organized a competition of rocket battalions in the Lviv training centre where the battalion's equipment, the preparation of officers and specialists were checked. The competitions ended with tactical exercises and combat launches of rockets.

The highest level of verification of Rocket Battalions was achieved at the central rocket range of the Ministry of Defence in Kapustin Yar (in the north-west of the Astrakhan region, in 90 km from Volgograd). The Rocket Battalions were called in Kapustin Yar every few years unexpectedly, giving only a little time for preparation and arrival, as the motorized rifle (for guard), engineering and other subunits with their technique joined it. For 7 years of service, I was three times in Kapustin Yar with the Rocket Battalion. Twice the battalion was rated good and even it was invited to take part in demonstration exercises, and the third time (during the inspection by the General Inspectorate) it had only "satisfactory". Therefore, the division was also evaluated only on "satisfactory". For the first time in my military service (32 years) I, at least, in the eyes of the District Rocket and Artillery Chief, Major General Ustiugov became "the dangerous person", who could not be trusted, though the Rocket Battalion was well prepared, and the soldiers of the battalion during tactical exercises with rocket launches made more, than the person could! It was winter. When the battalion was withdrawn to the initial area, it was raining. At night when there

were exercises, a 40-degree frost struck. Everything has turned into ice. It was impossible to work with rockets in gloves, therefore soldiers worked with metal barehanded. The fingers stuck to the metal, and it was even necessary to rip them off with the skin. However, the tasks were fulfilled. There were light regulations for work at night or with protective equipment, but nothing was said about the terrible frost. The battalion's warriors acted as heroes, and the Colonel E. C.-C. Kisinas became "the dangerous person".

At the rocket range Kapustin Yar – I and the Rocket Battalion Commander Major G. S. Krutikov

"The dangerous person" proved what he cost when the artillery of the division took part in the largest post-war exercises "West-81" ("Zapad-81") when for the first time so much artillery and ammunition were used, that was supposed to be used in the military operations – several hundred of artillery pieces and on 80-100 (depending on calibre) projectiles on each gun.

So, "West-81". The artillery of the 128th Motorized Rifle Division also participated in these manoeuvers. They took place on the territory of the Belarusian and Baltic military districts and in the water area of the Baltic Sea. On one of the training grounds of Belarus there was the Artillery Regiment; 4 Artillery Battalions of motorized rifle and tank regiments, Rocket and Jet Battalions; altogether 126 howitzers; 18 jet devices BM-212 "Grad" and 4 rocket launchers "Luna-M."

The artillery tasks on these manoeuvers were not only complex, but also unusual for peacetime. It was decided to test (manoeuvers were also testing) modern methods of using artillery (by the volume of tasks, massaging the artillery fire, determination of the results of its fire) for the first time in the post-war years. After the concentrating in the area of future operations, it was necessary to all requirements of fortification to equip firing positions, observation and control points with all shelters, dugouts, etc. The most important thing was to teach gunners to allow accurate uninterrupted fire within a specified period. The artillery preparation of the attack had to continue nearly an hour, after that the artillery had to support the offensives with its fire, when tank, infantry fighting vehicles and infantry foot soldiers followed the fire shaft as close as possible to the fire zone. It could not be any mistake because there would be great human losses.

It was necessary not only to teach gun crews to work accurately and smoothly, but also to train them so that the soldiers were able to withstand a huge physical and moral load. Each soldier of the gun crew had to prepare 100 shells and charges within an hour (howitzers separately charged with a shell and charge in a case), to charge the gun and to shoot. Let's calculate the load: the shell of a 122-mm howitzer weighs 22 and a charge in a case is of 6 kg – it is 30 kg; 152-mm howitzers – 43,8 and 50 kg. Thus, each soldier of the gun crew had to pick up and hand in one hour over 3 or 5 tons of ammunition, and loader had still to charge the gun with a shell and charge so that the shell hit the barrel rifling. In order that soldiers could withstand such a load, intensive trainings were conducted. Simulators were made for each gun, which simulated the loading of the gun. However, it was even heavier here, than at the gun charging, because it was necessary not only to charge the simulator, but after "shot" to take a shell and to transfer it to the original position. Trainings began with 20 shells. However, even after such training sweat poured. I remember how my Artillery Regiment showed the officers of the Land Forces battery exercises at the Lviv training ground. After the execution of my command "The 20th projectile, fire!", the Supreme Commander of the Land Forces, Army General I. G. Pavlovsky approached one of the soldiers, stroked the soldier's neck, felt sweat and praised: "So, commander, you teach the soldiers well!" Thus, we continued trainings every day, increasing the load, until, at last, we achieved desired result (100 loadings). At the beginning, some soldiers did not withstand such physical activity; some even had to be replaced. At the time of manoeuvres, it was necessary to withstand the terrible strain, because when only one battery was firing in volleys, the terrible rumbling rose. When "concert" of such a mass of artillery begins, the earth shivers

and knocks down, as in case of the strong earthquake.

However, I have already served in artillery of nearly 30 years, but only here I realized its real power physically and spiritually. Manoeuvres ended, and it was possible to sum up their results. The artillery shot at fully equipped support points of the conditional enemy trenches, dugouts, full-profile shelters, with state-of-the-art equipment and mock-ups soldiers with the entire weapon. The expert commission was appointed for each platoon strong point, which calculated the number of destroyed targets, assessed the caused damage and defined what part of the targets was destroyed. According to the regulations, the group target, which is also the platoon strong point, is considered to be destroyed, if 30% of the targets are destroyed. My artillery destroyed more than 80% of the targets.

Many soldiers of division artillery were awarded, and I was given a military order (not for the difference in the battle, in which a human blood flows, but for excellent training of the soldiers for carrying out their military duty). There were some more awards during the service, but all the officers received them on the anniversaries or for a long service.

I would like to mention one more important event of those years of my service. But I want to note, that in Soviet planned system there were many stupid and unplanned actions. It was one of them, when my 849th Artillery Regiment, placed in Lviv, suddenly received technique – 152-mm self-propelled howitzers "Acatciya." The railway train arrived, it was necessary to unload it and to send the caterpillar equipment along the city streets to the regiment. I do not know whether the Russian saying, "In Russia there are only two troubles – fools and roads" is applicable to Ukraine. I did not see fools here, and the roads, even in the cities, were bad. Therefore, driving through the city streets, heavy armoured vehicles could destroy an asphalt covering. It was necessary to put out the sheets of iron at intersections and turns. It was even more difficult to find suitable mechanics-drivers. Nobody knew how to operate these vehicles. The division found drivers of tracked vehicles MTL-B whose base was similar to the base of "Acatciya." After the drivers' training at the railway station, it was possible to go. The technique appeared in the regimental park of equipment and stood unused within several months when, at last, it became clear that this technique was intended for the Artillery Regiment of the 128th Division. I had to repeat an overload operation.

Another example of the Soviet system reliability. There were only two mechanized infantry divisions in the Carpathian Military District deployed in peacetime: the 24th Iron Motorized Rifle Division and the 128th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.

Soon we received the order to convert the 128th Division into abbreviated states – in each regiment there would be the only one deployed company or the battery. It is ordered – it is made! In autumn, the division was left without soldiers. It was good that officers were not dispersed. In spring, the General Staff realized that the wrong division had been "reduced". The reserve action began – the deployment of the division in a short time when it had to participate in the tactical exercises on the territory of Czechoslovakia. It was necessary to prepare the soldiers for one month, and the most important thing was to prepare drivers who had to overcome several hundred kilometres along the mountain roads. Everything was done under the reduced program, which included also a 500-kilometre march. The exercises took place without any incidents. We saw the roads of Czechoslovakia then. About 200 tanks passed on the highway, and many other armoured vehicles from which there was no any trace left on the roads. If it was in the Soviet Union, then after such a march of the division there would not be roads left, therefore tanks did not go on the main roads, except the situation in Ukraine in connection with an anti-terrorist operation.

For the first and the last time in my service, I travelled abroad. The officers were allowed to visit (now Czech) the city of Olomouts after the exercises. We were given 12 kroner on trivial expenses. I have then seen the difference between two countries with similar social system. Shops' windows were full of all kinds of unprecedented goods, clean streets, perfect order and cheerful people. For those 12 kroner, I have bought the cosmetic set for my wife and a set of five handkerchiefs. We have not tested the Czech beer; there was not enough money.

Once again, we have felt the mistake of the General Staff right after the returning from exercises. We received the order to transport the Artillery Regiment to the Luga training ground of the Leningrad Region for the service of the educational process of the Leningrad Artillery Academy. I have already told about the actions of my regiment in Luga. However, now it was "the heaven and the earth". The 331st Artillery Regiment was staffed with completely unprepared soldiers, not to mention coherence of batteries, battalions and the regiment. The requirements were the same – the preparation of each gun crew, the handlings of subunits, etc. was checked by a combat shot. I used all my diplomatic abilities and the fact that in the Academy they still well remembered my regiment. We did everything in order that the regiment was allowed to start working in the exercises; even we tried to change somehow the order of the Academy's classes, until the subunits of the regiment got stronger. And we managed to make it. It was not so good,

but the regiment fulfilled the task, though not up to the end. We received the unexpected order to plunge into trains and return to the place of deployment. The events in Poland and the related actions of the Soviet leadership have begun. The 128th Motorized Infantry Division was deployed to the states of wartime, and it was preparing for the actions on the territory of Poland. Having returned to the division, we found the regiments already in the areas of concentration. The reserve soldiers of the local areas joined the division. For example, located in Beregovo, the 315th Motorized Rifle Regiment was enlarged by the reserve soldiers of the same area who did not know either Russian or Ukrainian. Even in the formation, they learned only one song "Katiusha". It was necessary somehow to teach them "to fight".

Thanks God that V. Jaruzelsky's actions saved Poland from the Soviet invasion, and I did not have to participate in punitive operation as a part of the occupation forces, which the Soviet troops conducted in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. I do not know, if I could give the command to my artillery to shoot at civilians. Whether it would be enough courage for me to refuse to carry out such a criminal order, as the First Deputy of the Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces of the Russian Federation Colonel General E. A. Vorobyov did. He refused to head the Chechen operation and wrote the official report on dismissal from the Russian Armed Forces. A criminal case was opened against him, which then was terminated, and in 1995, he was released from the army "for health reasons." I mentioned E. A. Vorobyov because we were the Regiment Commanders in the 24th Iron Division; together we worked at the headquarters of the 128th Division, where he was the Chief of Staff; together we served in the 38th Army, he was its Commander. Human qualities are manifested only in extreme situations when it is necessary to take the only correct decision.

Now about my family. The wife did not sustain house "arrest" and began to work as the cook in a vocational school.

The daughter graduated from the secondary school and then from the Technological Faculty of the Uzhgorod Trade and Technological Technical School where she acquired the specialty of the technician-technologist.

The son was transferred to the service in Mukachevo as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the company of the 487th Motorized Rifle Regiment.

Sometimes in my life, there was time for family. The son "threw" the accordion in due time, but he perfectly mastered the guitar and even recorded a compact disk of his songs.

However, it is seldom, but we are together outdoors

In 1981, the daughter Zita married Igor, the son of Major Vasilchenko.

Zita and Igor's wedding

When Zita's husband entered the University in Kharkiv, he went to live with his grandmother. On 12 March, 1982 their daughter and my second granddaughter Marina was born in Mukachevo. Three months later Zita with the daughter went to live with her husband.

Daughter Zita and my granddaughter Marina

Igor graduated from the University (he studied English) and was appointed as the interpreter of the Military Hospital in Ethiopia. The daughter Zita went there together with her husband and the little daughter was left with grandfather and grandmother. It was good that my service ended, and it was possible to take care of and to bring up at least one granddaughter.

On 29 May, 1985, at the age of 51, I was discharged from military service to the reserve. Thus, my 32-year service in the ranks of the Soviet Army ended. It was different: sometimes it was hard and unpleasant; sometimes it was tolerant and even good. I warmly remember my study at the Leningrad Artillery Academy, the Command of the Battery on Sakhalin and the Regiment Command in Lviv when I could work with living people. Though the Soviet system maimed people spiritually in the army too, I had not to be broken because of my strong character. I am grateful to those commanders who believed in me and allowed me to do as I thought was right, and the way I wanted. It was good that I had not to serve in "hot spots" where blood was shed. I did nothing that could defile the name though Soviet, but the Lithuanian. I think that I have helped not one soldier or officer to become a good person. What is especially important, I acquired so much knowledge and practice, which I could apply to the creation of the Lithuanian Army, National Defence School and the Military Academy of Lithuania.

It is a pity, I have not found the suitable soil for applying the rich knowledge and experience of the artilleryman, as even now there is only one Artillery Battalion and several batteries and platoons in the Lithuanian army. I happened "to put a hand" to creation of "Combat Manual of Mortar Subunits" (1997). In 2004, the Ministry of Defence published "Encyclopaedic Artillery Dictionary" made by me. My knowledge and experience that I successfully applied were needed in other fields of military affairs and still I am applying them now.

But it was necessary to finish with the Soviet military service and start a new life.

The Division Commander announced the order of the Minister of Defence, handed "The thanksgiving diploma" of Land Forces Commander-in-Chief and a gift. And I became free.

According to the military traditions, all the demobilized officers prepared a graduation party to friends and colleagues. I wanted to do the same. I decided to organize party in the garrison officer's canteen. I printed the invitation cards and gave them to all invited. Of course, I have invited the Division Commander and all the staff officers, commanders of regiments and artillery commanders. I have sent the invitation to the Army Commander Major General E. A. Vorobyov; many things connected me with him during the service in the Carpathian Military District. However, it was May, 1985 when Mikhail Gorbachev's rules of anti-alcoholic struggle already worked. Therefore, I was advised to prepare a farewell party at home, where I could invite only limited number of guests. Therefore, I apologized to all and I was understood.

I visited all the units for the last time, said goodbye to the former subordinates and began to prepare for the road because I decided to return home. My son left in Mukachevo with the growing family, and the daughter, after returning from Ethiopia, decided to settle in Kharkiv. So, the rather young and healthy 51-year-old Colonel with the yet not grown old wife and the granddaughter decided to start a new life in Lithuania that did not gain its independence for the present.

RESERVE OFFICER (1985-1992)

BACK HOME

In June 1985, I returned to the native Kaunas with my wife Marija and the granddaughter Marina.

I, my wife Marija and the granddaughter Marina

I registered at my sister's Birutė with whom there also lived my mother, and temporarily stopped at my other sister's Rita who then (as well as every year) headed the children's camp in Kulautuva. Some time later, we arrived there to rest. We had a great time, picked berries, mushrooms. Once I was present at the concert organized on the open stage of the camp. I was sad without the Lithuanian songs, and when they started singing "Where the Šešupė runs, where the Nemunas flows..." („Kur bėga Šešupė, kur Nemunas teka...“), my eyes filled with tears. There were vocation holidays, but it was necessary to find at least a temporary accommodation and work.

The problems were solved quickly. We found two small rooms in the basement of Rita's good friend own house. We transported our luggage from Mukachevo and packed it in one room. We lived three together in the so-called room of 8 sq. m., but could use master's kitchen, a bathroom, etc. We lived alone a close-knit family. Our friendship remained for a long time. But the house was located outside the city, far from the bus-stop (for 1,5 km). It was not an obstacle for

me, but it was necessary to carry the granddaughter to the kindergarten (in the summer – in a carriage, in the winter – on the sledge).

I found the work quickly, using the services of the employment agency. I remember a conversation with the Director of the Kaunas taxi fleet where the Head of the Personnel Department was needed. When he learned my surname, he asked me what I had in common with the bibliographer Izidorius Kisinas. I was surprised that the person who had nothing in common with bibliography knew about my famous uncle. However, having thought a little, I understood that it was nothing surprising in it because Izidorius was very broad-minded person; he worked not only in the field of the bibliography and librarianship, but also he collected ex-librises, he had a huge collection of postage stamps, etc. On 26 August, 1985 I got a job of the senior engineer, but actually – the Chief of Ctaff of Civil Defence of Lithuanian State Institute of Physical Education.

It was necessary to wait for the apartment, which the city authorities had to allocate. I was the twelfth in the queue of reserve officers. Comparing with my military service, I had a lot of free time and tried to give it to the beloved granddaughter Marina.

At last, in March 1986 we received the apartment in the new district of the city of Šilainiai. Only three apartment houses were built there. The environment was the same as it happened to be at the construction sites, but then everything was arranged. Now it is one of the most beautiful micro districts of the city where in all the residential quarters there are schools, kindergartens, playgrounds, stadiums, a wide network of shops, medical institutions, etc. For now, it was as it was.

Civil defence was a new field of activity for me, and it had to be mastering. In many respects the remarkable team of the Lithuanian State Institute of the society of Physical Education and especially its Rector, Prof. Stanislovas Stonkus helped me. The excellent office relations have developed with legendary sportsmen – the Dean of Pedagogical Faculty, Ass. Prof. Justinas Lagunavičius, the Head of the Department of Sports Games Stepas Butautas, the lecturer, Ass. Prof. Algirdas Šocikas and others. I tried to work in such a way as to maintain the proper readiness of civil defence, and not to interfere with the work of teachers' team. Everybody understood me. I equipped a decent training centre with the class of the programmed training. In the entire institute's collectives, civil defence classes were conducted, and every year all the employees passed a test in a class of the programmed training. The Minister of Education of Lithuania Genrikas Zabulis visited the exercises on civil defence, which were especially memorable.

The minister was highly appreciated with exercises, and the Rector S. Stonkus was awarded with the Civil Defence Badge of Honour. Algirdas Šocikas helped me very much with the organization of rescue efforts during the exercises, when the students rescued "victims" through the windows of the fourth floor.

On 9 February, 1987 I was elected the senior lecturer in civil defence of Military Department. It was necessary to separate somehow from it and to teach this subject in the native language, therefore on 30 June, 1990 I was transferred to the Department of Pedagogy and Sports Management at my request. In 1990-1991, I also worked as the senior lecturer of the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute.

In 1989 in Moscow, I graduated from the Higher Central Civil Defence Courses as a lecturer.

I was tired of lecturing in Russian, it was necessary to do it in native language, but there were no textbooks in Lithuanian. Therefore, I wrote and in 1992 published three manuals: „Dozimetriniai prietaisai" ("Dosimetric devices"), „Civilinės saugos pagrindai" ("Basics of Civil Protection"), „Radioaktyviojo užteršimo ir cheminio užnuodijimo įvertinimas" ("Assessment of Radioactive Contamination and Chemical Poisoning").

I received a military pension and a small salary of the lecturer, but there was not enough money, therefore I worked as a lecturer of the society „Žinija" (with English "Knowledge"), giving lectures in various collectives on the topics of astronautics, civil defence and the international relations. Especially the astronautics (flight of the American astronauts to the Moon, etc.) was successful because I had a good set of slides. I remembered two lectures: in the Kaunas Theological Seminary and in the correctional colony of Pravieniškės penitentiary. My lecture was so pleasant in Theological Seminary that the Rector invited me to dinner where, as always, the seminary leaders and all the lecturers were eating. There was a pleasant and frank conversation on secular subjects without concerning any policy. Prisoners of the colony of Pravieniškės accepted me also very well. Several times, I had to read lectures to the staff of State Institute of Physical Education. Of course, I did not earn much for lectures (5 rubbles for a lecture). It was more likely spiritual relaxation.

My wife was again tired of staying at home; therefore, she began to work as the cook in recently opened kindergarten that my granddaughter Marina also visited. We spent a lot of time in nature, picked berries and fished with the granddaughter. Working at State Institute of Physical Education, I often took her with me and we spent time together after work.

However, time passed. The stormy 1989-1992 came.

✓ 25 January, 1989 – 16 February declared a national holiday.

✓ 16 March, 1989 – the Lithuanian Resettlement Movement (LPS – Lietuvos Persitvarkymo Sąjūdis) registered.

✓ 23 August, 1989 – residents of three Baltic countries followed the Baltic way.

The Baltic way was a peaceful action in the Baltic republics of the USSR, held on 23 August, 1989. The inhabitants of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia built a living chain with the length of nearly 600 km (to 2 million people) that connected Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius. The event was timed to the 50th anniversary from the date of signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which destroyed the independence of the Baltic States. The action showed the growing confidence of forces fighting for independence of the Baltic countries. In 6 months after the Baltic way, Lithuania was the first of the republics of the Soviet Union to withdraw from its composition.

✓ 15 December, 1989 – The Communist Party of Lithuania declared the separation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

✓ 11 March, 1990 – The Supreme Council of the Lithuanian SSR proclaimed restoration of Lithuania's independence.

✓ On 11 January, 1991 – the leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) Juozas Jarmalavičius declared that in Lithuania the National Rescue Committee which allegedly took power into its hands was formed. On the same day, the Soviet paratroopers (The Pskov Airborne Regiment) in Vilnius occupied telephone exchange, the building of the National Defence Department, the Press House, the TV Relay Centre in Nemenčinė, the Vilnius railway station. About 20 thousand people guarded the Supreme Council building.

✓ On 13-14 January, 1991 – at night the Soviet paratroopers occupied the TV tower in Vilnius, the building of Committee of Radio and Television Committee; 14 people died, about 1,000 people were wounded.

✓ On 27 January, 1991 – in the Vilnius district, in Medininkai and Lavoriškės the Soviet troops attacked boundary customs of Lithuania – Belarus and destroyed them.

✓ On 19 April, 1991 – the Soviet paratroopers attacked a post of boundary guard and customs of Medininkai.

✓ On 31 July, 1991 – OMON («отряд мобильный особого назначения»; special mobile unit – mobile special task force) killed 7 Lithuanian employees.

✓ On 8 September, 1992 – in Moscow the Lithuanian Minister of National Defence Audrius Butkevičius and the Russian Minister of Defence P. Grachev signed the timetable of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

✓ On 14 February, 1993 – Algirdas Brazauskas was elected the President of Lithuania.

✓ On 31 August, 1993 – the Russian army was withdrawn from Lithuania. At 23.46, the last military echelon of the Russian army proceeded without stopping through the railway station of Kena.

So, it seemed to be the end – what else do you wish? On 11 March, 1990 the independence of Lithuania was restored. However, it had to be fixing and protecting. The recovery of Armed Forces of the independent Republic of Lithuania began.

In 1991 in the Lithuanian press was announced that the former Soviet officers were invited to serve in the Lithuanian army. I wrote the official report. However, I received the answer that the officers of such age and such specialty (missiles and artillery) were not required. After such an answer, I reconciled to the thought that it was necessary to say goodbye to the officer's profession forever.

However in the summer of 1992 the creation of the National Defence School started. Kazimieras Černevičius who worked at that time as the Personnel Manager of the State Institute of Physical Education suggested me to work in this school. We were three – Kazimieras Černevičius, Vincas Milašius and I went to the Ministry of National Defence (settled in modest, not yet equipped rooms) and wrote official reports. We were told, where and when we had to arrive at the meeting with the Minister of National Defence Audrius Butkevičius.

During the meeting, A. Butkevičius congratulated the audience and told about the structure of future school, necessary specialists, etc. There were no my specialty. At the end of the meeting, I approached to the Minister and told that I was 58 years old and I was the artilleryman, worked in the sphere of civil defence. I showed him my three books. He told me that it did not matter how old I was and there would be a place for me in the National Defence School: "Go and work." My fate was decided. Looking from the current position of the old man, I am sure that I was not mistaken; I did not disappoint those who put me in trust.

The new stage in the life of already Lithuanian officer began.

MILITARY ACADEMY OF LITHUANIA (1992-1997)

On 16 June, 1992 the government of Lithuania adopted the resolution "The foundation of the National Defence Academy" on the basis of which the National Defence School was established. This date is considered the official day of the foundation of the Military Academy of Lithuania.

The National Defence School was located in premises of the former Vilnius Higher School of Radio Electronics of the Air Defence (USSR) on Šilas Str., 5a.

On 2 July, 1992 I was accepted the senior lecturer of the Combat Support Department of the National Defence School, and on 7 September I was appointed as the Deputy Head of Department. My service in the Lithuanian army has so begun.

There were seven employees at our department: the Head of the Department Romas Kunigonis (the military engineer), Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas (the artilleryman and the lecturer of civil defence, but I taught the course "Weapons of mass destruction"), military engineers Rimantas Šileikis and Pranas Žarys, the specialist of chemical service Leonas Gečys, the secretary of the department and the technical worker. They were meanwhile without military ranks.

We gathered in the rooms intended for the department on the first day (the second floor of the educational building) where we found empty walls and the neglected audiences. It was necessary to start everything from scratch: to develop training programs, to equip audiences, to find or purchase teaching manuals, to write at least the first lectures and notes of the first practical training, etc. There was nothing – no textbooks, manuals, posters and even means of war, which were necessary for training of future cadets („kariūnai"). There were less than two months to the beginning of the academic year. It was difficult to work because of the fact that it was necessary to go from Kaunas: to wake up at 4.00, to catch the first bus and the first train and to be at school at 8.00. I tried to finish work so that to be in time for the 19-hour train. I came back home at about 21.00. Even in the train, I translated literature and wrote manuals. It was so until, without having kept up with such pace, I have put a bed in the office. It became easier for me, but the wife left alone at home. We talked on phone, I returned home only on Saturdays.

However, we did everything or almost everything in time. We even received providing from the civil defence warehouses or other warehouses and bought

necessary means of protection (gas masks, skin means of protection, radiation and chemical reconnaissance devices, explosive packages and even napalm for simulating the action of incendiary weapon). I had to teach cadets, using the Soviet weapon and other means. Cadets and officers were armed with Kalashnikov rifles and Makarov pistols, the school had several Soviet armoured personnel carriers BTR-60 PB, etc. The necessary textbooks were only in Russian, they had to be translated into Lithuanian and adapted to the needs of the Lithuanian armed forces. There were Regulations of the U.S. Army FM (Field Manual – the Field Regulations), military manuals and training manuals of other NATO countries that we received much later. For now, it was as it was.

On 30 August, 1992 the officers of the department took the oath and sworn loyalty to the Republic of Lithuania.

The solemn opening of the National Defence School and the parade formation took place on 30 August, 1992, during which Alfonsas Svarinskas, the Chief Chaplain of the Lithuanian army blessed the flag of school on which the motto was embroidered in gold letters: "Our weapon, our study – to the Homeland Lithuania" („Mūsų ginklas, mūsų mokslas – Lietuvai Tėvynei").

The Chairman of the Supreme Council V. Lanzbergis and the Minister of National Defence A. Butkevičius hand a banner to the National Defence School

After the celebrations, study began. It was necessary to teach cadets to be the real soldiers, and later – leaders and teachers of soldiers, to prepare from the yesterday's student the real commander, the teacher and the educator – i.e. the officer. Cadets were listening to the lectures, and the practical trainings were held in audiences and in the field not only on the territory of school, but

also on various area and in Pabradė training centre. The objects taught at the Department of Combat Support were closely connected with the tactical actions of subunits studied at the Department of Tactics.

It was necessary to provide cadets with manuals, and later with textbooks. You can imagine the load, which should be sustained within the first several years. From 1992 to 1994, I wrote and published 11 manuals, which were enough for all the cadets (see the Bibliography). I did not like to use the secretary's help, who had a lot of work. I wrote all the manuals on the typewriter, which I mastered well. When computers appeared in school, I learned to work on electronic means. I bought the personal computer, which I do not leave until now. I drew and printed slides, created seven videos with more than five hours of viewing time: "Arms of the Russian army"; "The use of Individual Protective Equipment"; "The Decontamination of Subunits"; "Warning Signals and Actions of Soldiers"; "Protection from Incendiary Weapon"; "Actions of Section after the Enemy use of the Destruction Means"; "Methods of Training Protection from the Destruction Means." We equipped the excellent audience, which was often visited by the delegations of the different NATO countries. I did not speak well the informal English, though I freely worked with the literature in English, therefore the Head of the Department of English Genovaitė Laugalienė translated to the foreigners everything told.

The most part of my long service in the ranks of the Soviet army I spent on the training grounds and in training centres where the combat skills of military units and subunits were created and improved. Therefore, I loved actions in the field. The exercises on the Central Pabradė Training Ground were the best time for training in the National Defence School and later in the Military Academy of Lithuania. It was not only the best place and the best time for exercises, but I remembered also the years when I was young. Every morning I ran to the pool equipped on the lake, where I warmed up and swam. There was time for collecting mushrooms – they were many in Pabradė's woods. I prepared the collected mushrooms and on the weekends, I brought them home to Kaunas.

I had to do the methodical and administrative work, while performing the duties not only the chief lecturer, but also the Deputy Head of the Department. It was necessary to maintain documentation of the department, to make plans of work, to prepare meetings of the department, to organize reviewing and discussion of teachers' lectures, etc.

The lecturers were not privates for a long time. On 9 August, 1993 I was given

the rank of Colonel according to the order of the Government of Lithuania. The Minister of National Defence Audrius Butkevičius handed me epaulettes in the Vilnius National Drama Theatre. All the officers of school received officers' ranks.

Young Colonel of the Lithuanian Army

On 18 January, 1994 the Military Academy of Lithuania (MAL) was established by the decision of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

Opening of the Military Academy of Lithuania. In the top picture – the Minister of National Defence Linas Linkevičius and the Chief of Defence of the Respublic of Lithuanian Major General Jonas Andriškevičius. In the lower picture on the right – Rimantas Šileikis and Eugenijus Kisinas

On 11 November, 1994 I was appointed as the senior assistant, Deputy Head of the Department of Combat Support. The Doctor of Natural Sciences Major Vaclovas Palubinskas (died) and the Doctor of Medicine V. Vaičekonis joined the staff of the department. The engineering preparation, protection from destruction means and medical preparation were studied at the department.

Our Department – on the left Colonel Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas, the Head of the Department Lieutenant Colonel Romas Kunigonis, Major Leonas Gečys, the Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Rimantas Šileikis (died), Lieutenant Colonel Pranas Žarys

Cadets learn to shoot mortars

Mortar subunits began to be created in the Lithuanian army. It was necessary to prepare "Combat Manual of Mortar subunits" („Minosvaidžių padalinių kovos statutas"). Then knowledge and experience of the artillerymen were required. The Chief of Defence of the Respublic of Lithuanian Major General

Jonas Andriškevičius invited me, Colonels Aleksandras Venckus, Bronislovas Vizbaras and others and proposed to prepare the mortar dictionary. We worked very intensively, and the developed dictionary was successfully used in the preparation of the "Combat Manual of Mortar subunits" approved in November, 1997. It was the first case when knowledge of the skilled artilleryman was required. Later it was useful for the preparation of "Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Artillery" („Artilerijos enciklopedinis žodynas").

The officers' training went on successfully. On 2 September, 1994, the first 111 officers graduated from the Military Academy of Lithuania. However, it was necessary to go further. There were already NATO armies manuals, Combat Manuals of the Lithuanian army were approved, and it was necessary to use them for preparation of new textbooks, manuals for cadets' training.

In 1993, the term "Protection against Destruction Means" began to use instead the term "Protection against Mass Destruction Weapon". The purpose of new term was to weaken as much as possible the enemy's conventional (aviation, artillery, especially the high-precision and incendiary weapon) and the mass destruction weapon, and the destruction nuclear and hazardous chemical objects; preserving combat readiness of units and guarantee successful execution of a combat task. The subject of training at the Department of Combat Support was called so. The published textbooks "Protection against Destruction Means" („Apsauga nuo naikinimo priemonių" – the only textbook, which the Ministry of Education and Science recommended to students of high school) and "Basics of Organization Protection against Destruction Means" („Apsaugos nuo naikinimo priemonių organizavimo pagrindai") appeared in 1986-1987. U.S. Army Field Manuals [Field manual: FM 21-40. NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) Defence; FM 3-87. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) of Reconnaissance and Decontamination Operations (How to Fight); FM 3-7. NBC Handbook and others] and other available manuals of armies of NATO countries were already used in these textbook. The manual "Protection the Subunits in Emergency Situation" („Padalinių apsauga ekstremaliomis sąlygomis") was published in 1993 (in the battle – from destruction means, nuclear energy and chemical industrial facilities destroying effects, in peace time – from dangerous objects in emergency and disaster, natural disasters and other extreme situations). A huge map of Lithuania with the designated dangerous objects and possible zones of defeat was submitted in the audience of "Protection against Destruction Means." The officers of NATO countries were interested in this map visiting the Academy.

The day came when it was necessary to say goodbye to the Lithuanian army, though according to the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Lithuania No. 51 of 1 August, 1995 the term of service was prolonged to me and other four officers until the age of 65 (it was until 2 May, 1999 for me).

I will not exaggerate the contribution of the former Soviet officers, what was also me, to the creation of Lithuanian army structures, educational institutions, etc. However, it was obvious that such a complex and specific organization as the army was, the experts had to create. The bolsheviks also felt, that they would not retain the power if they did not create the professional and well-trained army. Then they invited the former tsarist officers and generals to the army who in their majority served honestly the Soviets; when they stopped to be necessary, they were repressed, most of them, including the first four marshals, were shot. Something similar happened in the restored Lithuanian army; but nobody was shot or punished; simply they were not only transferred to the reserve, but also they were prohibited from working in the system of defence. Such a ban for the retired officers is still in force, though there are no longer those Soviet ones.

The former Chief of Defence of the Respublic of Lithuanian Major General Jonas Kronkaitis wrote: "There were Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels who taught in the Military Academy without having practical experience. Their habits were Soviet. Some of them did not even try to change and to adapt to the new requirements. The respect for the soldier was our priority. The soldier cannot be the servant of other soldier or the officer. Unfortunately, we saw that these officers would not change, and it was necessary to dismiss them. 12-15 such leaven Soviet officers were dismissed..."

I am afraid that among them there were I and four other officers of the Military Academy of Lithuania who were dismissed to the reserve or resigned by the order of the Minister of National Defence of 10 November, 1997. However, the resolution of Council of Ministers prolonged our service up to 65 years. Jonas Kronkaitis was the Vice Minister of National Defence at that time.

Farewell to military service – on the right Colonel Vincas Milašius, Colonel Stasys Puškorius, Colonel Aleksandras Venckus, Lieutenant Colonel Algis Samajauskas, Colonel Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas (they were listed in the Decision of the Council, No. 51, 8/1/1996)

Goodbye, military service – Colonel Dr. Pranas Jankauskas (light memory to him) and I

The President of the Republic Valdas Adamkus gives the first rank to the officer

Minister of National Defence Linas Linkevičius gives the sword to the best Academy graduate with engraved words on it: "Do not lift it without need; do not lower it without honour!"

Academy today

Kęstutis Dijokas' photos

A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER – LEXICOGRAPHER (1998-2013)

After the dismissal to the reserve, communication with Academy was not interrupted. On 11 November, 1987 I was accepted the senior assistant-hourly teacher to the Department of Combat Support and worked in this position with breaks till 19 December, 2000. There were many unfinished works and unrealized ideas. It was necessary to appeal repeatedly to the leadership of the Ministry of National Defence for permission to be engaged in educational and methodical work, to prepare and publish textbooks, manuals and dictionaries at least for three years. The Vice Minister J. Kronkaitis on the letter of the Chief of the Lithuanian Military Academy of 17 December, 1998 about permission to sign urgent employment contracts with some reserve officers (including the retired Colonel E. Kisinas) wrote the negative resolution, because of their big pensions and old age. Thus, I had to appeal personally to the Minister of National Defence Linas Linkevičius on 29 March, 1999. Later I addressed Vice Ministers Romas Kilikauskas, Edmundas Simanaitis, Jonas Gečas. I bothered the Minister Linas Linkevičius with the requests, etc. Requests were different: extension of the employment contract, preparation of the Great English-Lithuanian and Lithuanian-English Military Dictionaries, Lithuanian Military Encyclopaedia. It was necessary to write reviews on the published military textbooks and dictionaries in which there were many mistakes in Lithuanian texts and other mistakes. The answers were often indistinct or negative. Therefore, since 2003, I decided to calm down and to prepare necessary for the Lithuanian army editions without any petitions, approvals and copyright agreements. Thank God, that at least the Military Academy of Lithuania and the Training and Doctrines Command of the Lithuanian army helped me to publish the prepared publications, which were approved by the State Commission on Lithuanian Language (SCLL).

However, let us return in 1998.

It was necessary to say goodbye to the training subject "Protection against Destruction Means" because I had my well-prepared assistants – the Doctor of Natural Sciences Major V. Palubinskas and Major L. Gečys. In 1998-1999 academic year, the students began to study a new subject at the Military Academy – "Methodological preparation". This job was assigned to me. While preparing for

training I had to face the eternal problem of finding the educational materials. There was no proper literature. I did not want and could not use editions of the Russian military pedagogics thoroughly imbued with the Soviet ideology. Thus, it was necessary to search them. First, I began looking for editions of pre-war military teachers of the Lithuanian army. I found the remarkable book „Kovotojo mokymas“ (“Fighter Training”) by the Colonel of the Lithuanian army Petras Tarasenka in archives of the Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library. At the same time, I opened another very important, but inexcusably forgotten part of the activity of the famous archaeologist, teacher and writer as military educationalist, methodologist, researcher and propagandist of the Lithuanian military history. The director of the library kindly agreed to give me for some time the single copy of this book. After the copying the original, I began to prepare its second, abridged edition. This remarkable book, the only manual on military pedagogics, didactics and methodology was published in 1998 with edition of 500 copies in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Lithuanian army; it was dedicated to the memory of Colonel Petras Tarasenka.

Of course, not everything that is written in Petras Tarasenka's book is acceptable for training of the modern soldier. The organization of army, its armament and combat equipment, and with all that – tactics have changed. However, basic laws of pedagogics (and military as well) have not changed. It was necessary to separate grains from the chaff, not to be guided by literally read words, but by Petras Tarasenka's metodology to which all the authors of military editions have to follow. It should be noted, that there were also such officers, who disparaged P. Tarasenka's book, saying: “Is it possible to teach the modern soldier by throwing stones? This book should be burned.” However, we do not burn books by Aristotle, Platon and Socrates written more than 2 thousand years ago.

Nevertheless, it was necessary to go further. In 1998-1999 books by the Swiss military educators – Prof. R. Steiger and the Brigadier General W. Cvigart „Humaniškasis vadovavimas“ (“Humanistic Leadership”) and „Karinė pedagogika“ (“Military pedagogy”) were published. I have read books by R. I. Arends, N. L. Gage, D. S. Berliner; by the Lithuanian pedagogues A. Maceina, S. Šalkauskis, L. Jovaiša, B. Bitinas and other authors; the remarkable book by the Austrian military educators G. Jung and G. Florian “Grundlage der Militärpädagogik” (“Fundamentals of military pedagogy”) translated from German. I have been acquainted with military pedagogics of many NATO countries. It was necessary for me to give lectures and to create manuals at the

same time. First, it was necessary to write lectures. I suggested cadets to buy the printed lectures, paying only the cost of printing at printed matter (at a big discount, not more than 8-10 cents per sheet). Most of the cadets have agreed. More than 100 copies we multiplied, brought from Kaunas and purchased; (about 200 sheets in each set). It has facilitated the teaching of the course.

In 1998, I began to work closely with the Lithuanian teacher (educationalist), the Doctor of Social Sciences Leonas Jovaiša. With his permission according to his book „Pedagogikos terminai" ("Terms of Pedagogy") I prepared the reduced dictionary of pedagogical terms which was published by the Academy. I began the preparing of the textbook „Kario mokymas" ("Training of Warrior"), but L. Jovaiša, studied the content of the textbook, suggested to call it „Kario ugdymas" ("Education of Warrior"). I spent much time with this remarkable man behind a cup of tea, heard many pieces of good advices, which I realized in the final version of the textbook. The Rector of the Lithuanian State Institute of Physical Education Dr. Kęstutis Miškinis (Chapter 15, "Means of Communication"), Colonel Jurgis Norgėla (Chapter 5, "The purpose and tasks of combat training of the motorized infantry"), the Chief of the Lithuanian Military Academy Algis Vaičeliūnas, the Vice-Rector of Academy, Prof. Pranas Jankauskas and many others helped me with the preparation of the textbook. The textbook for military instructors and commanders was published in 2000 with the edition of 500 copies.

The same year, according to Danish sources, I prepared the manual „Pedagoginiai karių mokymo principai" ("Pedagogical Principles of Training of Soldiers"). This manual introduced the principles of soldiers' training in the Danish army, the organization of training and self-training, practical advices about how it would be better, more effectively and in a short period to train soldiers according to the modern requirements of warfare.

On 29 December, 2000 my pedagogical activity ended. The Vice-Rector of the Academy Dr. Pranas Jankauskas taught the course of methodical preparation.

My "career" of the military lexicographer began in 1998 (and I have not stopped it yet).

The Lithuanian military terminology began to be created in the pre-war Lithuania; the translation from Russian was mainly used. On 19 February, 1923, according to the order of the Army No. 30, Ministry of Defence approved the commission on terminology headed by Major Martynas Laurinaitis. The commission worked very intensively, and nearly 5,000 terms were collected; their total number had to increase to 15,000. The military dictionary had to be

formed of this material. Unfortunately, the dictionary was not published, and the collected terms disappeared. Up to now only „Kariškas lietuviškai–rusiškas ir rusiškai–lietuviškas žodynėlis“ (“The Lithuanian-Russian and Russian-Lithuanian Military Vocabulary”) of 1919 edition remained (about 1500 terms). *[Algirdas Ažubalis, etc. Valstybinė kalba Lietuvos kariuomenėje (State Language in the Lithuanian Army) (1918-1940)].*

After the restoration of independence in the Republic of Lithuania, it was necessary to start practically everything from scratch. The first attempt to develop the Lithuanian military dictionary was made by the present Dean of Faculty of Philology of Vilnius University Ass. Prof. Antanas Smetona who prepared „Karybos žodynas“ (“Military dictionary”) (V., 1995). It was substantially the translation of the Russian “Military Encyclopaedic Dictionary”; it was very weak. Once again, it was proved that specialists in close cooperation with linguists had to prepare special dictionaries. It was necessary to do as in pre-war Lithuania officers did, whom the most outstanding linguists Jonas Jablonskis, Kazimieras Būga, etc. helped. For now, everything turned out on the contrary.

That is why in 1997 the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language (SCLL), but not the institutions of National Defence, decided to prepare the “Encyclopaedic Military Dictionary” („Enciklopedinis karybos žodynas“), providing it with financing. Military Academy of Lithuania (MAL) was offered to work with the dictionary, and more than 32,000 litas were allocated. The working group was formed which included the most experienced members of the Academy. The Rector of the Academy, the Brigadier General Zenonas Kulys became the Editor-in-Chief; Colonel Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas became the Managing and Scientific Editor. During 1988-1989, the personal index of terms was made, and the essay articles were almost written. The list of the authors of the dictionary (879 p.) showed that I had the biggest load: protection against means of destruction, aviation, navy, military administration, logistics, rockets and artillery; explanations, English-Lithuanian and Russian-Lithuanian vocubularies; partially tactics, military engineering, weapons, military equipment, military topography, communication and informatics (nearly 70% of the dictionary’s articles). However, it was just the beginning of the big and hard work.

I do not want to diminish the contribution of other authors, but because of the lack of skills in creativity and even specialty, I had to rework many articles or write them again. Someone had also to undertake organizational work. I did

it on my own initiative. To find the qualified reviewers who understood the area of work, was the most difficult task. Soon there were 16 military specialists, who informally took up the revision and correction of the dictionary, and appointed by SCLL Dr. Jonas Klimavičius and Dr. Antanas Smetona. I had to work closely with the leadership of the Air Forces and the Navy; I spent several days together with the Chief of Staff of the Air Forces Lieutenant Colonel Vidmantas Šilas, and others. The Head of the Editorial Board of the Physics and Technology Science of the Science and Enciclopaedia Publishing Institute Irena Valiulienė, Director of the Department of Civil Protection Colonel Antanas Paulikas and many others helped me very much. All of us not only worked, but also studied to work hard on preparation of dictionaries. The learned lessons were later useful in preparation of other military and military-technical dictionaries. At last, in 2003, the processing of the texts was completed, and the dictionary was presented to SCLL for approbation. Reviewing and editing went on for a long time. The first review by Dr. J. Klimavičius and Dr. A. Smetona was such that it was necessary to process all the dictionary (the necessary lessons have not learned yet). The dictionary was approved and published in 2008 with the limited edition – only 195 copies, (SCLL paid for a half of edition), although it was suggested to organize a preliminary subscription to the dictionary to satisfy the needs of all those wishing to learn the Lithuanian military terminology. However, the electronic version of the dictionary long ago appeared, and it is possible not only to read it, but also to download it on the Internet.

The path of the dictionary to the readers was not easy. In 2000, when the first "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" was published, the General Jonas Kronkaitis tried to stop the preparation of „Enciklopedinis karybos žodynas" because he considered that it was enough "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions". However, the Chairperson of SCLL (2002-2012) Irena Smetonienė gave it a decisive rebuff, and the preparation of the dictionary was completed.

It was well known, how the history of the first edition of "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" ended. In 2000, this dictionary (not presented and not approved by SCLL) was published in 2,000 copies edition. On 11 September, 2001 I personally handed to the Minister of National Defence Linas Linkevičius the 110-page review in which I proved that in the translation of the dictionary from English so many mistakes were made (Lithuanian and business) that it was unsuitable for use. According to the order of the Minister, the new editorial commission was set: the head of the working group was the adviser to the

Minister D. Skučas, the Editor-in-Chief – Colonel Jurgis Norgėla.

The second, revised edition of NATO Glossary of terms was prepared, which also had to be criticized. At last, in 2006 the third edition of "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" (2,000 copies) approved by SCLL was issued. The first edition was destroyed, though so many USA Lithuanians and the Lithuanian officers took part in its preparation: Second Lieutenant T. Ališauskas, Lieutenant K. Andriejevas, Second Lieutenant V. Bivainis, Major of G. Grinius, Dr. A.V. Kanauka, Lieutenant Commander O. Marinič, Lieutenant A. Matusevičienė, Colonel S. Murza, Major E. Petrauskas, Captain M. Steponavičius, Lieutenant Colonel G. Šneideris, Colonel R. Žibas. The biggest mistake was that the qualified Lithuanian linguists and terminologists did not take part in preparation of the dictionary; the Dictionary has not been presented to the SCLL.I want to emphasize the fact that experience of inter-war Lithuanian army in the development of the Lithuanian military terminology was not taken into account. Nobody planned and organized this work, looked for the authors and invited them. If there were any authors, they worked on their own initiative, often (or more often) encountering resistance of various officials of national defence system. I also became such an initiative author. During 2002-2017, on my own initiative, in most cases even without author's contracts, paying for service of editors and some reviewers from my pension, I prepared and published the following dictionaries:

1. Apsaugos nuo naikinimo priemonių enciklopedinis žodynas. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2002.
2. Artilerijos enciklopedinis žodynas. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2004.
3. Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas. Internetinis leidinys. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2009.
4. Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karybos žodynas. Internetinis leidinys. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2009.
5. Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2013.
6. Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karo technikos žodynas. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2015.
7. Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas. Internetinis leidinys. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2016.

8. Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas. Trečiasis pataisytas leidimas. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2017.
9. Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karybos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2017.

I could safely add to these dictionaries „Enciklopedinis karybos žodynas" ("Encyclopaedic Military Dictionary") and the third revised edition of "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" (which would not be if on 11 September, 2001 I did not hand my review to the Minister of National Defence).

It could be possible to write a separate book about the history of each dictionary. However, I will only mention some remarks. It was possible to prepare and publish without any problem only „Apsaugos nuo naikinimo priemonių enciklopedinis žodynas" ("Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Protection against Destructions means"). But, someone actively resisted „Artilerijos enciklopedinis žodynas" ("Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Artillery"). I even had to ask repeatedly the Vice Ministers and the Minister of National Defence for help.

I never considered myself the know-it-all. In order not to be mistaken, I always looked for remarkable advisers and found them. It is enough to look at the list of reviewers of some of my dictionaries and books. According to the established practice, it is enough to have two reviewers to each publication. My dictionary „Apsaugos nuo naikinimo priemonių enciklopedinis žodynas" ("Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Protection against Destructions means") is my 15-year area of work. Five experts reviewed it: the Director of the Civil Protection Department Colonel A. Paulikas (actually all the specialists of the department worked with the dictionary); the best specialist in this area, the reserve Colonel V. Balašaitis; Head of Editorial Board of the Physics and Technology Science of Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Institute I. Valiulienė (all the editorial staff of scientific editors worked), etc. Twelve experts reviewed "The English-Lithuanian Military Technical Dictionary" including five doctors of various branches of science. Therefore, I did not worry about quality of dictionaries though I emphasized everywhere that these were the only bases of the Lithuanian military terminology. On 7 August, 2013 in the conversation with the Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas I emphasized the following: "Only the bases of the Lithuanian military terminology are created. Then the specialists in all the spheres have to continue this work. They have to evaluate the work already done, to complement the missing terms and the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language should assess it. Further, it will not be required to write new dictionaries. It is necessary

to fill in an Electronic Dictionary of Military Terms and Lithuanian Terms Bank." I perfectly understand that in my dictionaries many things are missed, because it is impossible for one person (what presented he would not be) to embrace the immensity. In Armed Forces of larger NATO countries, the specific institutes are engaged in military terminology. In our army all the headquarters, all the services and all the officers loving the state language have to take an active part in this work earlier and now.

But I would like to write about everything in turn.

I understood that it was not enough to prepare and publish dictionaries of certain areas of military science, so I decided to try to prepare the general bilingual (English-Lithuanian and Lithuanian-English) military dictionary. On 18 March, 2002 I addressed the Minister of National Defence, suggesting to prepare two dictionaries: "The Great English-Lithuanian Military Dictionary" (2004) and "The Great Lithuanian-English Military Dictionary" (2006). I did not receive the answer. Then I offered cooperation to the Department of Foreign Languages of MAL. My proposal remained without answer again.

Linguists of MAL independently prepared and published the manuals. In 2003 the „Karinis anglų–lietuvių kalbų žodynas. Eksperimentinis leidinys" ("Military English-Lithuanian Dictionary. Experimental edition") was published. Though I could not speak English well enough, I managed to write on 9 April, 2005 the review on 78 pages in which I expressed my opinion on the title of the dictionary, its structure and, in general, the use of Lithuanian language. Any dictionary, published by MAL, was not presented to SCLL. They are correctly called educational because they cannot be called the real military dictionaries. The military dictionary, as well as all the other special dictionaries, is intended for use by consumers, but not for studying language.

It was necessary to begin with smaller editions. Together with Training and Doctrine Command of the Lithuanian army, which at that time was led by the Colonel Jonas Vytautas Žukas and on the representation of MAL „Mažasis anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas" ("Small English-Lithuanian military dictionary") was prepared which, according to the proposal of the reviewer Ass. Prof. Elena Stasiulevičiūtė was called „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas" ("English-Lithuanian military dictionary. The second amended edition"). Because of lack of funds (but means were found for two editions of "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" of 2 thousand copies) the dictionary was not published, and in 2009 it was posted online. The

same happened with "Lithuanian-English military dictionary. Internet edition." However, for preparation of this dictionary the author's contract was not signed, and the author had to pay for the work of editors and some reviewers from his pension (apart from other expenses and sleepless nights).

It was necessary to work further. In 2008-2011 I prepared (again without author's contracts for which I did not apply) „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas" ("English-Lithuanian Military Technical Dictionary") with more than 42,000 terms and words. I am sincerely grateful to MAL and, first of all, the Vice-Rector for Science and Studies, the Dr., Prof. Valdas Rakutis for its edition in 2013. In 2015, MAL published „Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karo technikos žodynas" ("Lithuanian-English Military Technical Dictionary"). In the last several years, I prepared the amended editions of „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas", „Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karybos žodynas" and „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas" which were already approved by SCLL. All the military dictionaries and dictionaries of military equipment approved by SCLL are posted on the website of the Ministry of National Defence, and everyone has unlimited access to them.

So, today we have what we have. It was possible to do more and better, but not by forces and efforts of one person.

It is remarkable, that on this bumpy road there were many officers, excellent specialists in other areas, who agreed to contribute to the creation of the foundation of the Lithuanian military terminology voluntarily and without any compensation. I am especially grateful to Dr. Jonas Klimavičius (the Institute of the Lithuanian Language), Dr. Antanas Smetona (Vilnius University), to other experts and the staff of SCLL who helped me for many years to become the recognized lexicographer. Within nearly 20 years, I was connected by sincere labour relations with the Head of the Programs Department of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, the Doctor of Philology Vilija Ragaišienė.

When I began working with the bilingual „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas" in 2004, I asked the linguist, the Doctor of the Humanities and the author of several dozen English-Lithuanian and Lithuanian-English dictionaries Bronislovas Piesarskas for help. He willingly agreed to help. However, his sudden death did not allow him to finish this work. His wife and companion, the co-author and the scientific editor of his many dictionaries Elena Stasiulevičiūtė finished the reviewing and correction of the dictionary. Within more than ten

years, E. Stasiulevičiūtė reviewed and corrected all my bilingual dictionaries, surprisingly skilfully taught me not only the language subtleties of English, but also the general work on drawing up the dictionaries. It is necessary to study at such people to zeal, diligence, unselfishness, elegance and tolerance. Even, when MAL offered payment for reviewing „Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas“, she refused. She constantly stressed how hard and poorly valued the work was, done by the authors of dictionaries: “In Ancient Greece they used to say: if you want to punish somebody, let him prepare a dictionary ... ” It is sad that deterioration of her health interrupted our creative communication. But, such wonderful people should never be forgotten.

I would like to remember kind words those associates who sincerely and disinterestedly worked or acted together for the sake of Lithuania and its Armed Forces. They are the employees of the Department of Military Academy. These are Prof., Dr. Vaclovas Palubinskas (Light memory) and the retired Lieutenant Colonel Rimantas Šileikis (Light memory), with whom we learned together to work on the computer, slept in the next beds in the Academy hostel. It is the Major Leonas Gečys. It is the long Vice-Rector of MAL Colonel Doctor Pranas Jankauskas (Light memory). These are Rectors and Chiefs of MAL: the Colonel Jonas Andriškevičius (later the Chief of Defence of the Respublic of Lithuania), the Brigadier General Zenonas Kulys, the Colonel (now Brigadier General) A.

On 7 June, 2011 the President of Lithuanian Republic Dalia Grybauskaitė handed medal of the Order of Gediminas to the Doctor, Associate Professor Elena Stasiulevičiūtė

Vaičeliūnas, the Colonel Eugenijus Vosylius, the Vice-Rector of MAL, Prof., Dr. Valdas Rakutis (many memoirs and unfortunate works on creation of "Lithuanian Military Encyclopaedia" connect me with him, but also the performed works on preparation and the edition of military dictionaries).

I especially want to remember the Colonel Jurgis Norgėla, the talented and hardworking officer and the surprising person. Although he often had a lot of trouble with the preparation of "NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions" or with the edition of military dictionaries, he never refused to help me and even did what he was not required to do.

I cannot but remember the book editor (now the Head of the Editorial Board) Jolanta Glosaitė-Budreikienė who was working from the very beginning of the establishment of National Defence School in Editorial Board. She passed with me a quarter of the century's way, edited all my books, manuals and dictionaries, patiently listening to all the comments of SCLL and linguists of the Institute of the Lithuanian language. From one dictionary to another, the quality of their language constantly improved, and in the last, there were almost no mistakes left. For example, the second edition of "English-Lithuanian Military Technical Dictionary" was approved by SCLL without any remarks and corrections.

I would not like to talk about those who prevented me on my long way, did not do what they had to do, or about those who were indifferent to everything connected with the state language and the Lithuanian military pedagogics. Sometimes their desire to seem more western, than they actually were, to show that the Lithuanian army completely conformed to the standards of NATO, and the officers were fluent in English, exceeded their pride of the people, their language and culture. However, they forgot that our army is the Lithuanian army in which everybody speaks Lithuanian, so all the commands have to be pronounced not only in Lithuanian, but also in the correct state language. Let historians write about them in monographs, which can be similar to this one written by Prof., Dr. Algirdas Ažubalis [*„Valstybinė kalba Lietuvos kariuomenėje (The State language in the Lithuanian army) (1918-1940)" and „Karo pedagogika Lietuvoje (Military pedagogics in Lithuania) (1918-1940)"], for example, in such as „Valstybinė kalba Lietuvos kariuomenėje (1992-2018)" and „Karo pedagogika Lietuvoje (1992-2018)."*

Sometimes I want so much that the Lithuanian soldiers learned from Americans how to respect language, customs and history. I repeatedly cited, at all levels, only one example from the courses of companies' commanders of

U.S. Army: "When completing the courses, the listeners were given the task of describing at their choice any military battle (fight) of U. S. Army or its episode. The work was evaluated by three teachers: history – whether it was correctly written from the historic point of view; tactics – how historic facts are applicable to the modern army; English – how many mistakes were made in the language. All three evaluations were equivalent. Having received at least one bad note, for example, on the language, the work was assessed unsatisfactorily."

The description of my activity in the reconstructed Lithuanian army will not be complete if I do not tell about my work on writing and reviewing of military and military-technical articles for "Universal Encyclopaedia of Lithuanians" (UEL) and "Encyclopaedia of Technology" (ET). At the Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Institute I got acquainted with the Head of the Editorial Board of the History of Lithuania Vytautas Spečiūnas and the Head of the Editorial Board of the Physics and Technological Sciences Irena Valiulienė. First, I was acquainted with the nominal index of articles of military science and military equipment, clarified it and added. After that, I received the task to write articles for each volume and to review articles of the other authors. I worked with "Universal Encyclopaedia of Lithuanians" in 1997-2013 (the I-XXIII volumes), and with "Encyclopaedia of Technology" – in 1997-2009 (the I-IV volumes). During these years, I wrote almost a thousand military and military-technical articles and reviewed many articles of other authors. In the military articles, I tried to bypass a historic part, which was supplemented by the scientific editors who knew the military history well. We perfectly worked together with the editors Arvydas Gaidys (UEL), Aldona Krutinienė and Jonas Nainys (ET). The life is such that the best of us leave it not in time. We sadly left with Vytautas Spečiūnas and Arvydas Gaidys (Light memory).

On 7 August, 2013 the Minister of National Defence Juozas Olekas handed me the medal for the civilian the System of National Defence "For merits." In the order of the Minister dated 9 July, 2013 No. R-708 it is written: "I award the Colonel in resignation Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas by the medal for civilian the System of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania "For merits" (No. 0289) for special merits and a personal contribution to the development and strengthening of the system of national defence."

It would be possible to finish on it my military and creative stories. However, there is a long (1998-2013) period of life which my family and I have lived not only in creativity and works.

We lived together with my wife as well as the other elderly people lived. However, I did not have a car (I was satisfied with a bike), a garden and other property that everyone wanted to have. Therefore, I spent the most time (as my creative activity allowed) at home. I loved music, collected many songs, concerts and movies that I still use. I helped the wife with household chores and when she became ill and could not be in charge of housekeeping any more, I became the full-fledged housewife.

LIUDIJIMAS

Nr. 0289

Dim. plk. Eugenijus Simonas KISINAS

apdovanojamas
Lietuvos Respublikos krašto apsaugos
sistemos medaliu civiliams
„Už nuopelnus".

Juozas Olekas
Lietuvos Respublikos krašto apsaugos ministras

Lietuvos Respublikos krašto apsaugos ministro 2013-07-09 įsakymas Nr. P-208

On 7 August, 2013 – the rewarding moments

I did not find and did not have real friends. Communication was mostly business, and when common affairs ended, and friendship stopped. Many things depended on the fact that I lived in Kaunas, and all the affairs were managed in the capital.

It is clear, that I always tried to maintain close contacts with relatives who remained in Lithuania.

Our children and grandchildren who lived in Ukraine, and later in Cyprus did not forget us. They, as far as time allowed, visited us at home. I visited the daughter and the granddaughter Marina in Kharkiv several times, but I did not go to Mukachevo to visit my son and grandsons. It became more cheerful when video connection on the Internet (Skype) appeared; we began to communicate more often.

OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN IN KAUNAS

I, Marija, Zita and Marina

I, Zita, Marina and Tita

I and Zita in my workplace

Vladas in Kaunas

The house in XVII krantas Str.

I wanted to show Vladas a hovel in which he was born, but it wasn't any more. Therefore I showed him the house in XVII krantas Str., where Marija lived and where our love began.

In 2005 my brother Samuelis and his wife Rachel, who lived in Israel, visited us. Samuelis celebrated 60-year anniversary.

Samuelis, I and Marija

My sisters Rita and Birutė, the brother Vladas, Marija's relatives – uncles Juozas and Povilas, aunt Kazimiera, Jadvyga and Ona also visited us. We visited them too while Marija was able.

Marija and her aunts Jadvyga, Kazimiera and Ona

The great holidays, as a rule, we together celebrated in the company of our pets.

My wife and I grew old, and there were great changes in the life of our children and grandchildren. Grandchildren have graduated from higher educational institutions. The senior grandson Eugenijus did not want to continue education after the graduation from the secondary school and started doing his business. The granddaughter Marina finished studying English at the institute and went to practice it in one English insurance company in Cyprus.

All the grandchildren have their families. Eugenijus (1994) and Marina (2010) celebrated their wedding parties.

Grandson Eugenijus and his wife Vita

Granddaughter Marina and her husband Fakhri Karapaša

The wedding kaleidoscope did not end with that. In 1995 my daughter Zita and Igor's marriage broke up. Later Zita married Nikolay Staržinsky.

Zita and Nikolay Staržinsky's wedding

We were waiting for great-grandchildren and soon they appeared. One by one Ksenija Kisinas (14/5/1996), Melissa Karapaša (15/12/2007) saw this motley world.

The great-granddaughter Ksenija; she is 8 years old

The great-granddaughter Melissa with mum and the dad

But such is life that some people come, and the others leave it. So, losses have begun in our family. In 1988 at the age of 82 years my mother died; in 1998, six months before the 60th birthday, after the lightning oncological disease my sister Rita died; later my brother Vladas, a very young man died. My wife has lost her close relatives. The aunt Kazimiera left. So I left alone in Lithuania with my seriously ill wife. It was necessary to decide how to live further, having in foreign country the loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren – to go to children or to go to boarding house for aged. The daughter and the son invited us to live with them. The daughter lived in Kharkiv, the son lived in Mukachevo. We decided to go to the daughter.

So with heavy heart it was necessary to leave the Homeland, where I dreamed of getting all my long life.

A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER OF LITHUANIA IN UKRAINE (FROM 2014)

On 28 February, 2014 we came to our daughter who lived in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. Leaving Lithuania, we had to solve many problems. The fate of our pets Tita and Pukutė was one of the most painful. Tita at the age of eleven was very sick. We could not give it to anybody, and the conscience did

not allow us to lull the dog. Therefore, we decided to take it with us to Ukraine. We did not reckon with expenses, which were considerable. For example, I had to redeem the whole compartment in the train car. It was more difficult with kitty Pukutė. The wife hardly walked, I had to hold her, to carry some suitcases on the wheels, to carry the dog's cage and so on. There were two changes during the journey – in Vilnius and in Minsk (Belarus). A good neighbour Jonas kindly agreed to accompany us to Minsk and there to put us in the train. However, there were not enough hands. Therefore, it was succeeded to give the four-year-old Pukutė to good people.

The daughter gave us her three-roomed apartment on the 11-th floor of the 16-storey house, and she lived herself in one-roomed flat. The house is located in the residential area not far from the garden cooperative and a forest park. From the window of a balcony the magnificent panorama is opened, observing which it is visible how the nature changes with the change of seasons. It is especially wonderful to watch sunrise.

We have quickly arranged the life. As in recent years in Lithuania, it was necessary to perform the homework, to provide with products, to cook food, to look after the sick wife, etc. It is good that in our district there are enough shops, pharmacies and branches of the bank. Nearby there is a market and polyclinic.

When we were going to Ukraine, we thought of quiet life. Even in a terrible dream, we could not imagine what we would have to face. In Ukraine rough and tragic events began, the sources of which could be found even in genocide of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933, when Ukraine lost more than 6,000,000 people from "Holodomor" organized by the Moscow authorities. The Russian-speaking people, who arrived from Russia, took their place. East areas of Ukraine – Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, etc. especially suffered from hunger. In eastern regions of Ukraine, the Russian-speaking people prevail. For example, in the second large city of Ukraine Kharkiv (40 km from the border with the Russian Federation) you will seldom hear a conversation in Ukrainian. At the beginning of 2014 the known events began – annexation of the Crimea and the formation of terrorist Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics with puppet governments. There was an attempt to create also the Kharkiv People's Republic, but this time separatists received decisive rebuff and calmed down. The armed conflicts, which developed into the real war, created serious threat to sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine.

We even discussed with my daughter an opportunity to go to the quiet region of the western Ukraine – Transcarpathia or to return to Lithuania. However, the

new Ukrainian government seized the situation and, at least in Kharkiv, the life remained quiet.

Anyway, when living and listening to the information about the events in the country, it is impossible to endure quietly the reports about daily killed and crippled people, continuing and amplifying attacks of the pro-Russian and directly Russian bandits, firefights, explosions, bombings, provocations, etc. It is impossible to close ears and to hear nothing. However, the life is going on, it is necessary to live.

VIEW FROM OUR BALCONY

Spring of the 2014th

Winter, 2015

Sunrise

The daughter lives with her husband near us, works in the town municipality, but always finds time to visit us and to help; she calls us several times a day. Therefore, we do not feel lonely and abandoned.

We communicate by phone and Skype with our son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren living in the Transcarpathian Mukachevo and in Cyprus, with my brother Samuelis, who lives in Israel.

I cannot forget and I will never forget the dear Homeland – Lithuania. Every day we watch the Lithuanian television broadcasts. We keep in contact with distant relatives in Lithuania. It is a pity, that I have late found the cousin Silvijus – the son of my uncle Izidorius. I was acquainted with his children. I restored a

lost connection with well known in the music world of Lithuania and in many foreign countries Audronė Eitmanavičiūtė, the daughter of my sister Rita.

I do not interrupt the business contacts with my colleagues in the Lithuanian army and with the State Commission on the Lithuanian Language.

During the period of 2014-2016, I tried to finish the work with the bases of military terminology. After the long efforts in 2015 the „Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karo technikos žodynas“ (“Lithuanian-English Military Technical Dictionary”) was published.

I have prepared for printing and approving by SCLL my three dictionaries:

✓ Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karybos žodynas. Trečiasis pataisytas leidimas. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2017.

✓ Lietuvių–anglų kalbų karybos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas. Vilnius, Lietuvos Respublikos Krašto apsaugos ministerija, 2017.

✓ Anglų–lietuvių kalbų karo technikos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas leidimas. Internetinis leidinys. Vilnius, Generolo Jono Žemaičio Lietuvos karo akademija, 2016.

The first two editions were finally published in 2017. I presented four bilingual dictionaries to the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, because I wrote them and prepared for publication on my own means, without author‘s contracts and reward.

And this as if all. Now only creativity would be enough. However, probably, I will not remain without work. Nevertheless, I had to work only early in the morning, while my wife did not wake up.

For now, I was engaged in memoirs of the Kisinas family in Lithuania. Antonina Kisinaitė‘s letter pushed me to do this, though she was only a namesake, as it appeared. For today the biographic essay was already printed and placed on the Internet in the Lithuanian and Russian – „Mes – Kisinai: Panevėžio Kisinų pėdsakais“.

I cannot but remember that in 2014 on the website of social network “Odnoklassniki.ru” I received the letter in which somebody asked: “Are you our dad?” (“Ty nash batia?”). The soldiers called so the commander of the regiment if he was respected. I did not understand the question and wrote that I had two children. However, I had no legitimate children. At last, I understood that the author of the letter served in my regiment, and he looked for the commander of the regiment. Then I learned that my brother-soldiers created “The 849th Yassky Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment” group in which the photo album was

uploaded to this website "We served under Kisinas's command." There are 126 people in the group. In album, there are 359 photos (187 of them are in my album). When I responded to the message, letters and offers for communication fell down. Unusual feeling captured me. Is it really, that after 40 years the ordinary soldiers, whose names I did not know, (because it is impossible to remember thousands of names) remember me?

That is only one letter, which was sent on 10 May, 2016 by the private Fagim Gubaidullin: "Dear Evgeny Simonovich! I served under your command in the Yassky regiment in the city of Lviv. We, soldiers, called you for eyes "Dad" ("Batia"). Happy birthday, dad! Good health, long years of life to you. It first. With the Victory Day, Dad!"

Is it possible to read such letters without tears? I have answered him: "Thanks, dear Fagim. I always loved the soldiers and appreciated their opinion. Now, 40 years later, especially. Your words are as balm for my soul. You too with the Victory Day. The best wishes."

That is how we lived. In the first years, we went out for a walk with Marija, sat on a bench. But, it was so only in 2014. Since winter of that year, Marija enjoys the nature, just looking through the windows of the balcony.

July, 2014

On 2 May, 2014 I celebrated my 80th birthday. The Chief of the Lithuanian Military Academy Colonel Eugenijus Vosylius congratulated me on the 80th anniversary: "Dear retired Colonel Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas! On behalf of the staff of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of the Lithuania, we heartily congratulate you on the honourable date – the 80th anniversary. We are sincerely

grateful to you for your significant contribution to the development of military science and military terminology. Thanks to you and on your personal initiative, the most important military dictionaries necessary for the Lithuanian Army were very carefully and professionally prepared and they will be prepared further. We wish you creative energy and good health." Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren also congratulated me.

On 10 May, 2015 my wife Marija also celebrated the 80th birthday.

On 10 May, 2015 my wife Marija also celebrated the 80th birthday

In October, 2015 the granddaughter Marina, who arrived from Cyprus, visited us in Kharkiv

Granddaughter Marina and grandmother Marija

On 23 January, 2016 our daughter Zita celebrated the 55th anniversary.

Zita with the employees of her department

In 2013, the 17-year-old great-granddaughter Ksenija Kisinas began her study at the Lviv Technological University. On 7 May, 2016 she suddenly came from Lviv to visit her great-grandfather and great-grandmother. On 14 May, 2016 she celebrated the twentieth anniversary. Now I think what a great-grandfather I was that for 20 years I could not visit the beauty and extraordinary capable great-granddaughter. O Lord, forgive me my mistakes! I hope that now our relationship will not be interrupted.

Great-granddaughter Ksenija, great-grandmother Marija and I

In July, 2016 our son Vladas visited us. It was his first visit to Kharkiv.

I, Vladas and Marija

There also were losses in the same 2016. On 21 April, at the age of 89 years the aunt Kazimiera, the last close relative of my wife, died.

On 9 May, 2017, coming back from the trip to Vietnam, the great-granddaughter Ksenija Kisinas again came to visit old men. This time – with the Vietnamese gifts.

Marija and I with the Vietnamese gifts

Marija, Ksenija and I

On 31 August – 4 September, 2017 the granddaughter Marina visited us. It was her second visit to Kharkiv.

Marina, her grandmother Marija, Zita and I

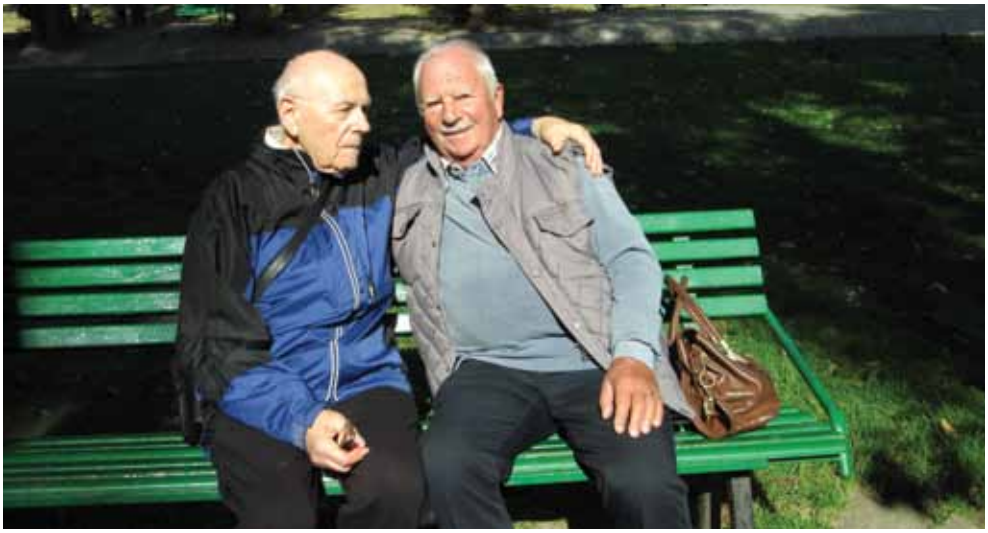
Marina, her grandmother Marija and mum Zita

Marina and I

All my life I taught soldiers, officers and cadets to military science, and now I teach my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to culinary

On 22-28 September, 2017 my brother Samuelis and his wife Rachel visited us. It was the third meeting of two brothers – Eugenijus and Samuelis: in 1959 in Vilnius (see p. 59), in 2005 in Kaunas (see p. 131) and now in 2017 in Kharkiv (he is now 72 years old).

MEETING OF TWO BROTHERS



Marija, Eugenijus and Samuelis

Rachel, Marija,
I and Samuelis

Zita and
Samuelis

In circus

In the park at
a spring

Successful fishing

The fishing moments in the reservoir of the Botanical garden

Final evening at “Sloboda” restaurant

On 25-25 October, 2017 my grandson Eugenijus and his daughter and my great-granddaughter Ksenija visited us. It was his first visit to Kharkiv.

Last time I met the grandson in 2005 when he came to visit us in Kaunas with his father Vladas. Though we always maintained good relations with him, this meeting was unforgettable. We spent two nights in memories of the past. Eugenijus reminded me some moments of our life, which were erased from my memory. For example, I forgot that I carried him from Mukachevo to Uzhgorod mountain training centre in 1983 on the official car. He was 8 years old and studied in the second class. There were great field training exercises with combat firing and aircraft actions, where the Ministers of Defence of all the countries of the Warsaw Pact were present. I attached Eugenijus on the observation tower where the observation devices were and he could observe the picture of educational fight. He was frightened very much when the fighting helicopter flew by at the height of several tens of meters. It seemed to him that the helicopter was flying directly on the tower. However, he, as well as the other participants of the exercises, did not notice that two warplanes crashed and both pilots died. They were ordered (for better effect) to fly at perhaps small height. There were mountains densely overgrown with high trees. Flying by over one height the leading plane hooked on tops of the trees and the conducted plane crashed into it. I forgot to write about this episode and about these exercises in the Lithuanian and Russian editions of my book.

My daughter Zita went together with Eugenijus and Ksenija to the performance "Odessa Foundling" of the comedian troupe "Mask" and made a photo with the people's artist of Ukraine Boris Barsky.

After this meeting, the relations between the grandfather and the grandson became even closer and warmer.

Marija, Eugenijus, I and Ksenija

I and Eugenijus

I, Ksenija and Eugenijus

Zita and B. V. Barsky

Such is even unfinished life story of Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas, the Colonel of two states, educationalist and lexicographer, father of two children, the grandfather of three grandchildren and the great-grandfather of four great-grandchildren.

There was everything in it: good deeds and mistakes, cheerful and sad days, not spent love to the relatives...

I constantly repeat Ovidijus Vyšniauskas lyrics "Born in Lithuania": („Gimę mes Lietuvoj"):

"I was born in Lithuania, I grew up in Lithuania,
I live in Lithuania
Here I will lay my head.
Oh, My God, bless us, we are born in Lithuania..."

„Aš gimiau Lietuvoj, Lietuvoj užaugau,
Gyvenu Lietuvoj
Čia padėsiu galvą
O, Viešpatie, palaimink mus, Gimę mes Lietuvoj..."

But I can't sing this song because my fate is such that at the age of 80 years I had to leave Lithuania to which I gave, at least, the last 30 years, and I don't know where I will lay my head.

What person I was – let my descendants decide. If kind people remember me – many thanks to them in advance!

Modern electronic devices allow us to solve various problems. One Internet program defined what animal hid in me. The answer was like this: "Eugenijus, the wild soul lives in you (and there was a photo of the lovely Siamese kitten, such as our Pukis who pleased us for 13 years!) You have a strong and irresistible character. Instincts never deceive you, you have an acute mind."

I can safely assert that almost everything is confirmed, but I do not have the wild soul and irresistible character. I always solve and do everything deliberately. That is my nature.

Electronic version

Our Pukis

OUR PETS

My biography would not be complete if I did not tell about our pets.

We started with a white mouse running away from our small room, which we removed, and waiting outside the door when we let it in.

When we received the first apartment in Vilnius, we had a doggie (girl) who, waiting for a litter, dug the hole and brought the puppies there.

When we lived in the apartment with the common kitchen, the rats blocked us. It was necessary to get rid of them. We brought a small, three or four-months-old kitten and planned the operation. On the wall of the kitchen the big bag with crackers hung, into which the rats climbed. We found all the holes, through which wretches came, prepared plugs for holes, switched off the light and went to watch TV. When it became dark, we took the kitten and, without switching on the light, came into the kitchen, closed the door, closed the holes, turned on the light and struck the bag with a stick. The rats began to jump out of the bag, and the kitten killed everyone with one blow in a neck. We did not see the rats any more.

A big black Siberian cat lived with us on Sakhalin. Flown by plane through Moscow to Kaunas, we put our cat in a suitcase with breathing holes and it successfully completed the flight. The cat began to mew when we went out of the plane after landing.

In Leningrad, a kitty and a white hedgehog with large ears lived with us. When the cat brought kittens, the hedgehog bit them to death at night. Though the cat bitterly mewed, we did not wake up.

In Lviv the Karelian Laika, which we called Ryžik, lived with us, but we did not know from where it came. It was the most amazing creature of all our pets,

about which one could write a thick book or shoot a film. It was not required to walk. In the morning, we released it to go out for a walk. Running as much as it wanted, the dog came back home dirty (though it was dry everywhere) and immediately jumped in a bath. Next time when we released it to go for a walk in any weather, it came back clean. You would see how it crossed the street – as though it knew the traffic regulations! It ran up to a carriageway of the street, sat down, looked to the right, waited for cars to pass, run to the middle of the street, sat down again and looked on the left and, after making sure that there were no cars, it completed the transition. Zita's school was at four or five trolleybus stops. Nobody showed the way to the dog. Zita left school, and there Ryžik was waiting for her; it did not run to her, but went by trolleybus (it knew where to take the trolleybus, where to leave). The most interesting event was when we, coming back to Kaunas from the vacation, decided to fly to Lviv by plane. We never had any animal documents. They were not now either. It is clear, that we were not allowed to get on the plane. We addressed then to the passengers service department, but two women sitting there, did not even want to talk about the flight of the dog. Then Ryžik, which quietly sat before, began to rub a nose with a paw and started to sing beautifully. Then it stood on hind legs and began to dance as if in a waltz. The women even burst into tears, then led us to the plane and put. Later we had many pets, but we always remember our Ryžik.

In Mukachevo, a bulldog lived with us for some time, but it run out and disappeared. We did not find it. A rabbit who liked to watch TV in the evenings lived with us too. From the Luga training ground I brought home the German

Lviv – Ryžik

shepherd; it miraculously escaped death when attached it sat in a test entrenchment for the check of influence of incendiary weapon. Incomprehensibly, how it, the only one of many condemned, was able to escape, swam across the large lake, and snuggle up to me. I could not hold it for a long time because there was nobody to walk with it and to look after it. Therefore, I gave it in a good charge.

We had most of the pets in Kaunas when after the long wanderings we returned to Lithuania. First, I bought a beautiful Siamese kitten on the Aleksotas market. It charmed me with its blue eyes that seemed to invite me to pick it up. I could not withstand this glance. We called it Pukis. However, we also kept several cats – Barsas and Juodis, and I do not remember the names of two more cats. However, all its life Pukis lived with us. It was friendly with cats and puppies; it slept together with them, ate and played. It repeatedly saved us from natural disasters: the fire from a short circuit when things began to smoulder; from a flood when the water supply system pipe burst, etc. It reported about any unusual events with loud meow (even shout) and led to the place of accident.

My wife's acquaintance presented to us thoroughbred Pekinese Čita and Bimas whom she held for breeding. When they were 8-9 years old, they became unnecessary, and we were happy for some time.

When there were no Pekinese, the house became empty. We walked with Marija every day. Once, coming back from walk, we saw on a lawn a very beautiful puppy of several weeks. The young woman walked it. We praised a puppy. She suggested to take it and gave the address. We thought and decided to take the puppy. It lived in a small cardboard lodge in its master's house, and the laid newspaper served it as a toilet. We brought it home and did not regret. During its not short life (it was a girl; we named it Tita) it did not do anything bad. It was the best friend of all the children of the big 9-storey house, always informed about all the persons approaching to the apartment doors and about

Pukis and Čita

Pukis and Čita

Pukis and Bimas

Tita – it is a puppy of several weeks

Tita was hurt

Tita is resting

Tita poses

phone calls. When we went to Ukraine, it became a friend to all the inhabitants of the house. It always greeted the concierge and, coming back from the street, it said goodbye. It never barked in the street. However, there were three cases when it broke the rules: it barked one drunk, the addict and the car that was in the wrong place (on a green grass). Until now, we cannot remember it without tears.

A special story connects us with kitty Pukutė. One motley cat settled under the stone plate of the entrance. There it brought six kittens of different colour: blue, motley and one was with bright circles on sides. I fed them, brought milk and when they grew up I gave a small fish to everyone. It is necessary to see how they met me! They took food from my hands, allowed to stroke them. Once somebody took away a blue kitten. Next day the cat took away the kittens, and

the kitten with circles on each side left. It is difficult to describe how plaintively it mewed! We regretted it and took it home (that was a girl). Thus, the beautiful couple – Tita and Pukutė settled in our family.

Pukutė

Pukutė's favourite place

"I will give in a charge the remarkable, lovely, clean, sterilized 4-year-old kitty Pukutė. Leaving, the elderly people have no opportunity to take it with themselves. To kill such being is a sin."

We distributed such announcements, and good people took it.

Having lost Tita, we have decided not to get pets any more. It is too hard to leave them. And having got them, it is unknown whether we will live with them all their intended life. Now we will watch and admire the wards of children and grandchildren. My son Vladas always held and holds several dogs and cats, the grandson Eugenijus never leaves cats and dogs, even the granddaughter living in Cyprus presented Siberian husky and little Pekinese to her daughter Melissa.

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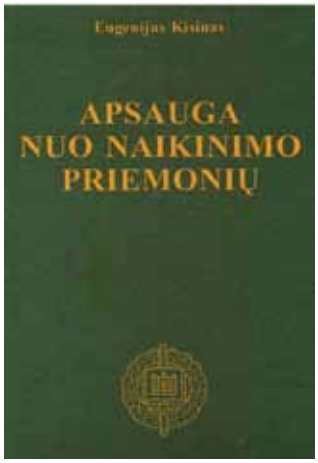
THE MOST IMPORTANT IN MY BOOK



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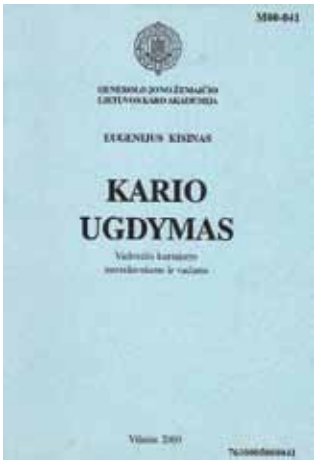

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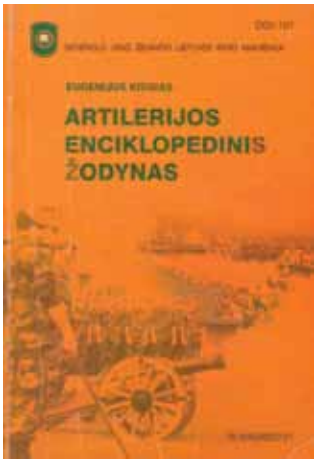
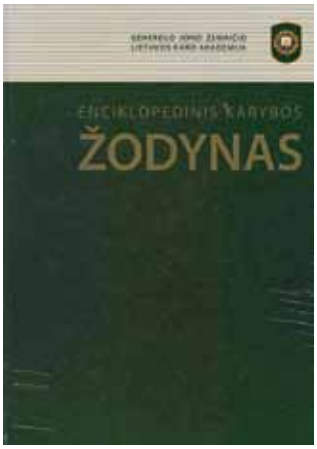
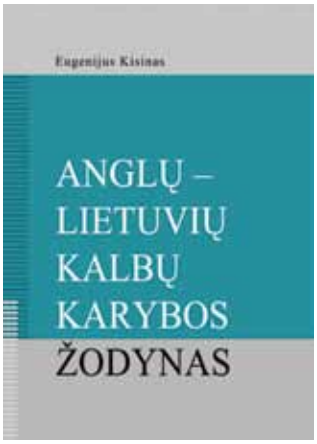


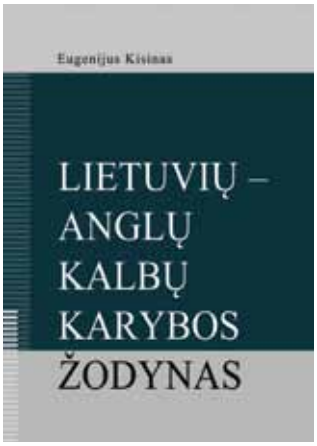
23.2004



24.2008

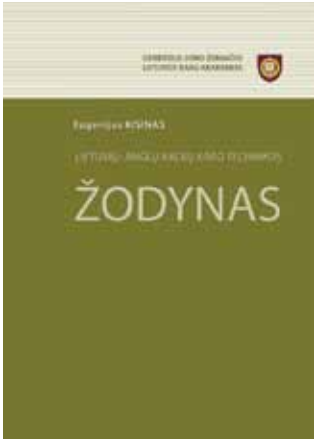


25, 30. 2009, 2017



26, 31. 2009, 2017

27, 29. 2013, 2016



28. 2015

32, 33. 2017

EUGENIJUS SIMONAS KISINAS' CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

SON

Vladas Kisinas

(12/6/1953)

Vladas was born on June 12, 1953 in Kaunas in the family of future officer. Together with parents, he moved to duty stations of his father – Vilnius, Sakhalin, Leningrad, Lviv, Mukachevo. He attended the kindergarten. He graduated from the secondary school and the Lviv Technical University. He served in coastal artillery of the Northern Fleet. He began his professional military service and graduated from Warrant Officer's School. Then he served as the Commander of the Fire Platoon of artillery and the Non-Commissioned Officer of a Company. After his military service, he worked as the process engineer, the senior master. Since 1991, he is the business owner. He is married and has two children and three grandchildren. Vladas loves music. He recorded and released the compact disk of his songs.

GRANDSON

Eugenijus Kisinas

(18/4/1975)

Eugenijus was born on April 18, 1975 in Lviv (Ukraine) in the family of the service man. He attended the kindergarten and graduated from the secondary school. He engaged in small business. He is married and has the daughter. He loves the nature and his main hobby is fishing.

GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER

Ksenija Kisinas

(14/5/1996)

Ksenija was born on May 14, 1996 in the city of Mukachevo (Transcarpathia, Ukraine) in the family of businessperson. She attended the kindergarten. To the eighth class she studied at the main secondary school. She participated in the city children's beauty contest and she became the second Vice Miss. She was fond of fashion and participated in the Transcarpathian Fashion Fest-2012. She graduated from the Economic Lyceum and Economics Department of the Lviv Polytechnic University. She is the Bachelor of Management and now she is the postgraduate student. She dances perfectly and likes to travel. She visited Paris, Barcelona, Madrid, Budapest, Warsaw, Italy (Rome, Venice, Pisa, Bologna), Croatia and far Vietnam.

DAUGHTER

Zita Kisinaitė-Vasilčenko-Staržinskaja

(23/1/1961)

ZITA KISINAITĖ-VASILČENKO-STARŽINSKAJA
23/1/1961
IGOR VASILČENKO

MARINA VASILČENKO-KARAPAŠA
12/3/1982

MELISSA KARAPAŠA
15/12/2007

Zita was born on 23 January, 1961 in Vilnius, in the family of the officer. With her parents, she moved to new places of father's service – Sakhalin – Leningrad – Lviv – Mukachevo. In Mukachevo she graduated from the secondary school of A. S. Pushkin №1 and the Trade and Technological Technical School in Uzhgorod. In 1981, she married the former schoolmate and moved to Kharkiv. Her husband studied at the Kharkiv University at the Faculty of Foreign Languages. In 1982 their daughter Marina was born. After the graduating from the university, the husband was directed to work to Ethiopia as the translator and they lived about two years there. Coming back to Kharkiv, Zita graduated from the Engineering and Economic University in absentia. In 1998, for the second time she married Nikolay Starzhinsky. Zita worked as the economist in the private and state institutions; in 2010, she graduated from the Institute of Post Degree Education of the Kharkiv National Pedagogical University on the specialty of "Pedagogy and the methodology of secondary education. The English language and literature". She tries her life to be healthy and active; she goes in for sports, therefore acquaintances call her my granddaughter, but not the daughter, in spite of the fact that she is 56 years old.

GRANDDAUGHTER

Marina-Vasilčenko-Karapaša

(12/3/1982)

Marina was born on March 12, 1982 in the city of Mukachevo of the Transcarpathian region. She lived with her parents up to three years, and then with the grandfather Eugenijus and the grandmother Marija within four years. She attended the kindergarten, in Kharkiv she graduated from the secondary school and the University (English). In 2004, she went to Cyprus. First, she worked in the insurance company, then as the lecturer of the higher educational institution, the administrator of the secondary school. Marina married the Cypriote and gave birth to the daughter. She fluently speaks five languages. She likes to travel and already visited Great Britain (London), Belgium (Brussels), Italy (Rome), France (Paris), Turkey (Istanbul), Latvia (Riga), Lebanon (Beirut), Denmark.

GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER

Melissa Karapaša

(15/12/2007)

Melissa was born on December 15, 2007 in the city of Girne of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in Marina and Fakhri's family. At 2, 5 years she began to study in the class of preschool education of the English school, and in 2012 she studied in the first class of the same school at which lessons are conducted in English, but at the same time she also trains the native (Turkish) language. In 2017, being ten years old, she finished the fifth class and passed to the sixth.

DAUGHTER

Rita Kisinaitė-Eitmanavičienė

(1/4/1939 – 15/9/1998)

Rita was born on 1 April, 1939 in Kaunas in the family of small businessmen Simonas and Agota Birutė. She grew in the family for two years. Parents were busy on their work, therefore the aunt Magdutė looked after her.

RITA KISINAITĖ – EITMANAVIČIENĖ
(1/4/1939 – 15/9/1998)

AUDRONĖ EITMANAVIČIŪTĖ
28/10/1959

From the beginning of war together with the brother Eugenijus she lived at mother's relatives in the village Paežeriai of the Vilkaviškis district for two years, hiding from Germans. She returned to Kaunas in 1943. The father got to the Kaunas ghetto, her mother worked at the factory, therefore she her elder brother looked after her. The only photo of those years left:

1943 – Rita with the brother Eugenijus

In 1946, she began to study at the secondary school. In 1953, she finished eight classes, further she studied in Pedagogical College.

1953 – Rita with my wife Marija and her cousin Vladas

1955 – Rita is 16 old. With the girlfriend in Kačerginė

1956 – Rita with girlfriends at the house in which grew

In 1957 she married my best friend and the fellow worker (before the army) Lionginas Eitmanavičius, the daughter Audronė and the son (I could learn nothing about him) were born in their family.

Lionginas was born in 1932; he studied at a vocational school and got the specialty of the printer. Since 1948, he worked with me in the printing house „Varpas". Before the military service in navy, he lived at my parents' house where he made friends with Rita. Having served in the fleet for five years, he returned to Kaunas and married Rita, all his life he worked as the printer in printing house.

1957 – Lionginas Eitmanavičius

Rita graduated from Pedagogical College and began to work as the elementary classes' teacher. Since then she devoted all her life to pedagogics.

On 28 October, 1959 the daughter Audronė was born who graduated from the Kaunas Juozas Gruodis Musical College (nowadays Kaunas Juozas Gruodis Conservatory) and from the Leningrad Conservatory of N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov (Russia). She is the Ass. Prof. of the Singing Department of the Music Academy of the Vytautas Magnus University (MA VMU). She is the Lithuanian pianist, concertmaster, the member of the Council of Lithuanian Musicians Union, International Association of Teachers "Art of the XXI Century", International Organization "Mountain Opera". At the Second International Contest of Young Vocalists of the Academic Singing (Kohtla-Järve, 2006) she was awarded the title of the best concertmaster. She wrote on the photo: "Dear uncle... Everything passes in our life, there is only the present..." These fine words reflect her creative life. And this is the present!

21/11/1979 – Audronė Eitmanavičiūtė

1962 – Rita and Liolita, who is the wife of my wife's brother

1962 – with the cousin Zita

1962 – with all relatives (the first on the left); farewell to Sakhalin

1962 – with mum and the brother

1966 – with the cousin Zita

1971 – with my family

Later she graduated from Pedagogical Institute and worked as the teacher of the secondary school. Being a good teacher and educator, she held a good authority on pedagogical collective. The pupils and their parents loved and respected her. She was appointed as the Deputy Director of Secondary School for Teaching and Educational Work. She worked in this position to death.

Approximately, since 1980 every year she was the Chief of the summer children's Camp in Kulautuva.

1985 – the Chief of the Camp in Kulautuva. Rita with the cousin Zita's daughter Marina

In the summer of 1998, nobody could predict the approaching accident. Rita, as always, worked in the summer camp, made the next vital plans, wanted to buy a garden, etc. Unexpectedly in August, she became ill and, suffering from the awful pain, came to the Kaunas clinic where the heavy oncological disease of stomach and liver was established. Rita who never complained of diseases went out within one month. She died on 15 September, 1998 and was buried at the Kaunas cemetery. Several hundreds of people – colleagues, parents of her pupils, just acquaintances who knew Rita as the great teacher, the sincere and hardworking educator and just as the remarkable woman – participated in the funeral. It is said about such people: "they do not die, because the memory about them does not die in the hearts of live."

RITA KISINAITĖ-EITMANAVIČIENĖ'S CHILDREN

DAUGHTER

Audronė Eitmanavičiūtė

(28/10/1959)

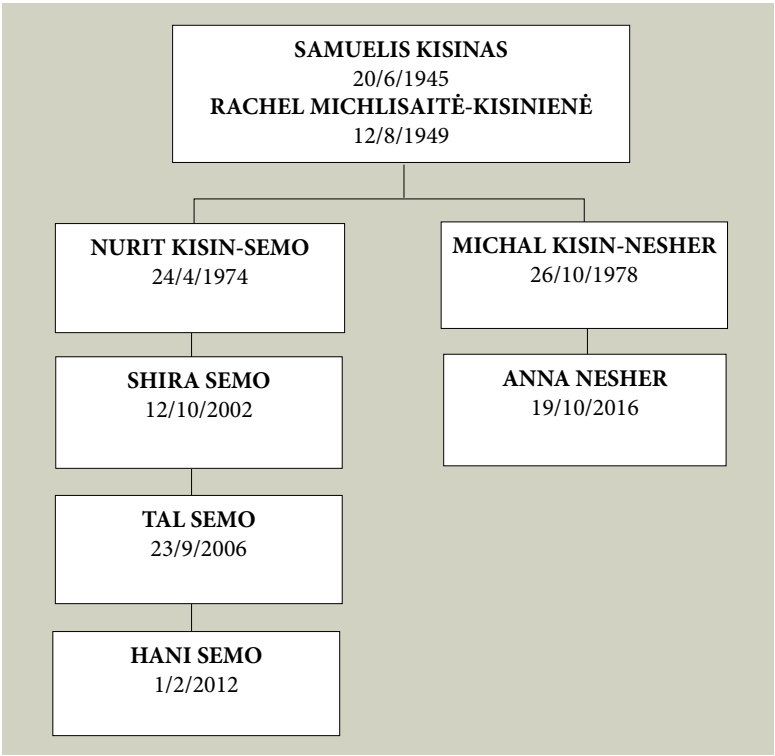
Audronė was born on 28 October, 1959 in the family of the teacher and the printer of printing house in Kaunas. She attended the kindergarten. She graduated from the Kaunas Juozas Gruodis Musical College, the Leningrad Conservatory of N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov (Russia). She is the Assistant Professor of the Singing Department of the Music Academy of the Vytautas Magnus University. She is the Lithuanian pianist, concertmaster, the winner of the international competitions of pianists and singers in Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Estonia and Latvia. She is the member of the Council of Lithuanian Musicians Union, International Association of Teachers "Art of the XXI Century", International Organization "Mountain Opera". At the Second International Competition of Young Vocalists of Academic Singing (Kohtla-Jarve, 2006) she was awarded the title of the best concertmaster. She was awarded four times with the prize of the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania. She was handed the letters of thanks of the Presidents of Lithuania V. Adamkus and D. Grybauskaitė "For distribution of singing art not only in Lithuania, but also beyond its limits and for excellent pedagogical work."

SON

Samuelis Kisinas

(20/6/1945)

I was born on 20 June, 1945 in Kaunas in the family of Simonas and Mihle, who survived the horrors of the Holocaust.



Until I was seven years old, I attended the kindergarten, located on the Rotušė square.

In 1952, I began to study at the secondary school of Adomas Mickevičius and graduated from it in 1964. My dad was ill more, than worked, so I started

working as a worker in a consumer service centre. My mother worked as a tailor. During the holidays, I went to the country or to Palanga with my friends.

The father died after the serious illness on 16 June, 1965, I buried him on 20 June in my twenty-year anniversary.

I met Rachel in 1970 in Kaunas Central Post Office, where she then worked. We decided to marry, but the Rachel's family got the allowance to immigrate to Israel. Upon arrival, she received the permission to arrive to Israel for my mother and me.

Once, after my uncle Izidorius' death, his son and my cousin Silvijus visited us with his mother Valerija. I also visited them in Vilnius. My mother found uncle Efim in Leningrad, and he visited us in 1964, when my father was already seriously ill. Two brothers Simonas and Efim met one time. I visited uncle Efim in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg, Russia) only once.

On 23 December, 1971 my mother and I came to Israel and settled in Rachel's house in the city of Kiryat Yam, near the city of Haifa. I got the Israeli citizenship, I married and my two daughters were born here. Later I got the apartment in the city of Kiryat Bialik, District of Haifa, where we live now.

On 2 February, 1972 I married Rachel Michlisaitė. The wedding was very simple. We invited a rabbi to Rachel's house and he married us according to the Jewish custom. The wedding takes place under a special embroidered canopy – Huppa. Mourning the destruction of the Shrine, the forehead of the bridegroom is spread with ashes. The bride's mother and the mother of the groom seven times around bypass the groom standing under the Huppa. The ktuba is read (the marriage contract, which is usually filled in before the wedding ceremony) and the culmination with the words follows: "You are destined for me by this ring under the Law of Moses and the Israeli people"; then the groom puts the ring on the forefinger of the bride's right hand. Pesia Kisin, the uncle Abraomas' widow was also present at the wedding.

Rachel Michlisaitė was born on 12 August, 1949 in the city of Kaunas. At the age of seven, she started studying at school and graduated from the 11-th Russian secondary school. She began working at Kaunas Central Post Office and studied in absentia in Polytechnic, but did not finish her studies due to her departure to Israel. She arrived to Israel on 1 May, 1971. She learned Hebrew, worked at school and then she worked as the chief cashier of the supermarket before the retirement in 2011.

Rachel and I

We live in the wonderful city of Kiryat Bialik on the Mediterranean coast.

Views of the sea

Living in Israel, I worked at the dairy factory for one year; 16 years I worked at the factory of utensils. Within 17 years, I worked for one owner as the tractor driver before the retirement in 2014. Having retired, I helped my children and grandchildren, and my wife still takes care of her 93-year-old sick father. My pension was not enough for everything, so I worked as a nurse in a hospital, and now I work again as a tractor driver for the same owner.

On 20 June, 2015 I celebrated the 70th birthday.

We have two daughters – Nurit and Michal and four grandchildren – Shira, Tal, Hani and Anna. Our daughters live next to us (one and a half hours drive), so we often visit them, and they visit us in our house.

Rachel's father with granddaughters Nurit and Michal

Our son-in-law's mother and I, our daughter Nurit with children

My granddaughter Hani and I

Our family: my wife and I, daughter Nurit, her husband, and children Shira, Tal and Hani, daughter Michal

In 1983 and in 2005 in Kaunas I visited my father's grave:

In 2005 in Kaunas I also visited my only brother Eugenijus.

I am with my brother Eugenijus and his wife Marija

I'm with Rachel and my brother's wife Marija

Our daughter Nurit was born on 24 April, 1974 in the city of Kiryat Yam. She began to study at the secondary school in 1981 and she graduated from it in 1993 and was called up for obligatory military service in the army. She served in the army for two years and then she studied at the Technion Technological Institute and received the specialty of manager and industrial engineer. She worked as an engineer in the company "Aitek" for several years. Then she studied mathematics and now she works as a teacher of the higher classes of the secondary school.

On 7 November, 2000, Nurit married Eldar Semo and took her husband's surname – Nurit Kisin-Semo. Now she lives in the city of Kiryat Tivon.

Eldar Semo was born on 2 May, 1972 in Israel. He began to study at school in 1979 and graduated from it in 1991 and then he was called up into the army. He served for three years. After returning, he studied at the Department of Informatics of the Technion Technological Institute, received the specialty of informatics engineer and worked as an engineer in a computer company.

Nurit has three children, our grandchildren – Shira, Tal and Hani. All the children were born in the city of Kiryat Tivon.

Daughter Nurit, grandson Tal and granddaughter Hani

Shira, Nurit's daughter, was born on 10 December, 2002; she attended the kindergarten and already finished the seventh class.

Shira

Rachel with her granddaughter Shira

Shira and Tal

Nurit with her children Shira and Tal

Tal, Nurit's son, was born on 23 September, 2006; he attended the kindergarten and now he is in the fourth class.

Tal

Nurit with her son Tal

Rachel with the grandson Tal

The mother of Nurit's husband with the great-grandchildren Shira and Tal

Hani, Nurit's daughter, was born on 1 February, 2012, now she attends the kindergarten.

Hani, when she was born

Hani

My granddaughter Hani and I

Nurit with her son Tal and daughter Hani

Rachel's father with the great-granddaughter Hani

Nurit and Eldar with their children Shira, Tal and Hani

My daughter Michal was born on 26 October, 1978 in the city of Kiryat Yam. She graduated from school in 1997 and went to serve in the army. She returned two years later and studied in the technical school on the specialty of the architect. She received the diploma, but she did not work as the architect. She studied at the Department of Informatics of Higher School. After study, she works as a programmer.

On 11 October, 2013 she married Oren Nesher, took the husband's name – Michal Kisin-Nesher. She lives with her husband in the city of Atlit.

Oren Nesher was born on 8 March, 1975, graduated from school and was called up into the army. He returned after three years of service and studied at the scuba diving school. Now he works as a scuba diver. He is an excellent musician, writes music and words for songs and he sings in English himself.

Oren and Michal

Moments of the wedding

Moments of the wedding

Rachel, Michal and I

Rachel at I at my daughter's wedding

New family: Rachel, daughters with their husbands and matchmaker

Our family: Rachel, Michal, Oren, Nurit, Tal, Shira, Eldar with Hani and I

On 19 October, 2016 Michal's daughter Anna was born.

When we were younger, we liked to travel. We visited Italy, Austria, Germany and Spain 30 years ago, Cyprus and Turkey – twenty years ago. We visited Lithuania several times.

We received the Lithuanian and Russian versions of the book of memoirs „Mes – Kisinai: Panevėžio Kisinų pėdsakais“ („We are Kisinas: Following the Panevėžys Kisinas”), we decided to thank personally the brother Eugenijus for this huge work on creation of the book for the large Kisinas family benefit.

I and my wife Rachel visited my brother Eugenijus, his wife Marija and their daughter Zita in the Ukrainian city of Kharkov on 22-28 September, 2017. It was the third meeting of two brothers – Eugenijus and Samuelis: in 1959 in Vilnius (see p. 59), in 2005 in Kaunas (see p. 131) and now in 2017 in Kharkov (now I am 72 years old).

The brother and his daughter Zita arranged to us a magnificent meeting and prepared the unforgettable program. We visited the unforgettable concert of the people's artist of Ukraine B. Boldyrev, devoted to the 75th anniversary of the favourite singer Muslim Magomayev. We saw the excellent performance of the Circus on water. We went along beautiful Sumskaya Street with its magnificent areas, enjoyed Feldman Eco Park from its more than 2,000 animals and various entertainments. We lived in the fine hotel "Kharkiv" in the downtown (on Svoboda Square) and spent final evening in the smart restaurant "Sloboda" where everything, beginning with the placement, registration, the menu, etc., is performed in the national Ukrainian style. The hospitality of my brother and his daughter surpassed all our expectations. What my brother is – it is told enough in his remarkable book about the Kisinas family. Besides, he is still the great culinary specialist, each dish, prepared by him, deserves a praise. The brother presented me the unpublished book in English "We are the Kisinas", all the numerous electronic albums, a huge collection of video and audio concerts, audio disk of his son Vladas' songs "Prohoria". These are the best gifts for my family and me. We will be waiting for all the members of large brother's family on the Promised Land with great impatience.

We are in Kharkiv

Airport

At my brother Eugenijus' home

Rachel, Marija, Eugenijus and Samuelis

In the hotel

In Sumskaya Street

In jewellery

In a dumpling bar

In the Circus

In the park of Botanical garden

On fishing in a reservoir of the Botanical garden

Feldman Eco Park

Final evening at “Sloboda” restaurant

SAMUELIS KISINAS' CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

DAUGHTER

Nurit Kisin-Semo

(24/4/1974)

Nurit was born on 24 April, 1974 in Kiryat Yam, Israel in the family of Samuelis and Rachel. At the age of 12, she celebrated Bat Mitzvah with her family and friends. She finished secondary school and had to do military service. She served in the Air Forces and was in charge of reservists. She graduated from the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) receiving the specialty of manager and industrial engineer. She worked in the Electric Company. Later she graduated from the University, got the specialty of mathematics' teacher and got the Master's degree in education; during the last seven years, she was working as the teacher of mathematics in high classes of the secondary school. On 7 November, 2000, Nurit married Eldar Semo. She has three children – Shira, Tal and Hani. She likes to travel and she visited London, Italy, Paris, Budapest,

Vienna, Prague, Greece, Turkey, and Barcelona and made Cruise across the Mediterranean Sea.

Nurit writes about the grandparents and great-grandparents with great love and undisguised pain, by miracle survived in fascist extermination camps: "My great-grandmother Hanna ... felt horrors of the Holocaust in Lithuania; Germans killed her husband and the younger daughter. She and her second daughter (my grandmother Sara) were in Ghetto and lived in the tiny apartment. My grandmother was very young and to make her old, her mother stuffed her clothes. Otherwise, Germans would killed her as they made so with other children. My great-grandmother and my grandmother were together in the Lithuanian extermination camp. My grandmother Sara experienced death several times. She was very close to me, I used to tell her everything and I loved her very much, she was very beautiful. I remained with her many times. She died from cancer of the liver just before my wedding. My first daughter Shira was called in honour of her. She never spoke about horrors, which she had to pass. When the war ended, she met my grandfather, Mordechai Michlis who also endured the Holocaust. They got married and had two daughters. In the beginning, they lived in Lithuania, but always sought to go to Israel. My grandmother and the grandfather loved Israel, and they always believed that it was the safest place for Jews. ... Unfortunately, I could not know the grandmother (my dad's mother, who also were in Ghetto, author) Michle, because she died of diabetes when I was only one year old. According to the stories told by my mother, she was a good woman and always knew how to receive what she wanted. My father never told about the parents or the family."

GRANDDAUGHTER

Shira Semo

(10/12/2002)

Shira was born on 10 December, 2002. She is in her nineth class of the secondary school and she is an excellent student. She has many friends; some of them live very close to her. When she was six years old, she went to the gymnastics class and she did it for five years. She is in the Scouts organization since the age of nine and now she guides a group of children at the age of ten. She loves going to the Scouts' and being a guide. She loves travelling, listening to music and having fun with her friends.

GRANDSON

Tal Semo

(23/9/2006)

Tal was born on 23 September, 2006. He is in the fifth class and he is a good student. He plays basketball since he was five. He is also in the Scouts organization. He has many friends.

GRANDDAUGHTER

Hani Semo

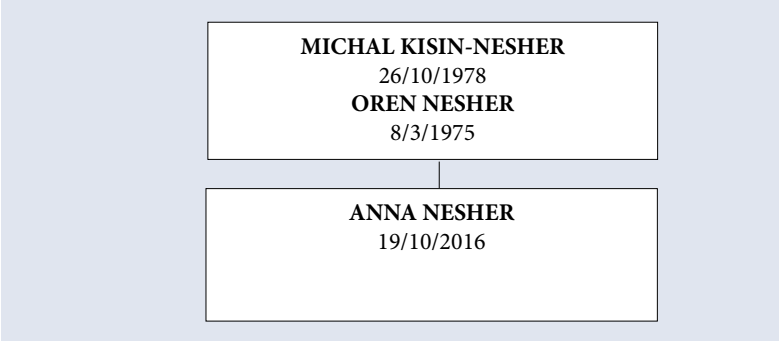
(1/2/2012)

Hani was born on 1 February, 2012. Hani is in her fourth year in the kindergarten; next year she will start her first year at school. Hani is a very smart girl, she loves playing with her sister and brother and with her friends. Hani does rhythmic gymnastics.

DAUGHTER

Michal Kisin-Nesher

(26/10/1978)



Michal was born on 26 October, 1978 in Kiryat Yam, Israel in the family of Samuelis and Rachel. She began to study at school when she was six years old. At the age of 12, she celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with her family and friends. In the summer of1996 , she graduated from the secondary school of fashion design and her final project, as well as several other projects, was chosen to represent her school at the national competition of fashion design secondary schools that took place in Tel Aviv. When she graduated from the secondary school, she received a gift from her parents – a trip to Paris and London. In April, 1997, she joined the Israel Defence Forces and served in the Northern Command until January 1999. She finished study at Architecture and Interior Design in the "Western Galilee College" in Acre. She was always attracted to design, so she decided to study also events' design at "Shenkar" College of Design Studies in Tel Aviv and designed a number of weddings. She also designed her own wedding. Later she studied programming and designing of websites and started working in the marketing and advertising company in Tel Aviv as a web designer. On 11 October, 2013 she married Oren Nesher. In October 2014, she with Oren flew to Cyprus and had a civil wedding. Michal has one daughter Anna.

GRANDDAUGHTER

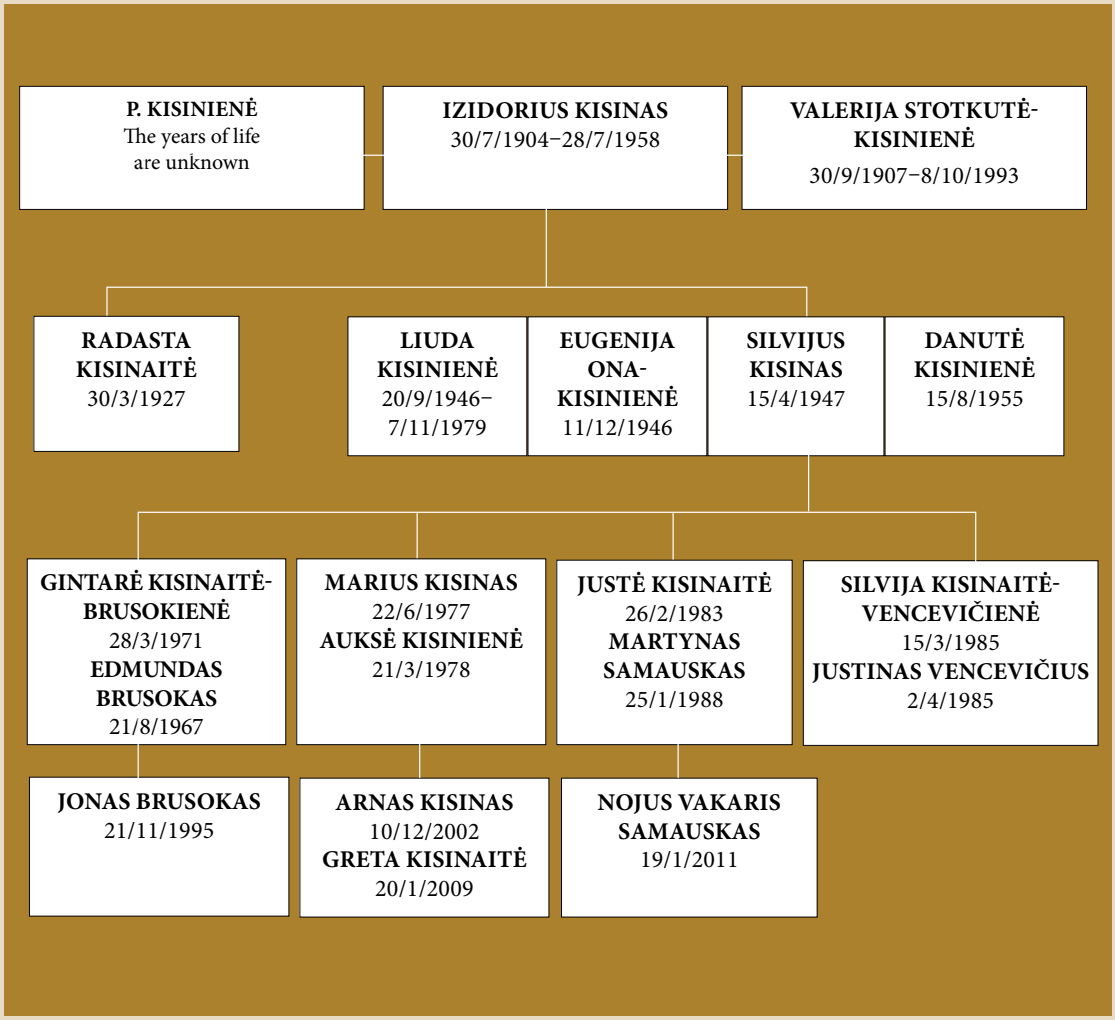
Anna Nesher

(19/10/2016)

Anna was born on 19 October, 2016, in the city of Atlit and on 19 October, 2017 she celebrated her first birthday together with the family on the porch of their home in Atlit.

THE FAMILY OF IZIDORIUS KISINAS

GENEALOGICAL TREE OF IZIDORIUS KISINAS' FAMILY



Izidorius Kisinas

(30/7/1904–28/7/1958)

Izidorius Kisinas was born on 30 July, 1904 in Panevėžys in the rich Jewish family. The Lithuanian nurse Elžbieta who tried to bring up Izidorius in Catholic and Lithuanian spirit, looked after him, therefore, putting to bed, she taught him to pray. It substantially influenced the formation of his outlook and the choice in life. The childhood and youth were difficult because, according to I. Kisinas' autobiography, from 14 years he earned on bread, training children or working at buildings.

You cannot say one sentence about such an unusual person, so let us start with what is written in the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia (2006, T. X, p. 177):

"Kisinas Izidorius, 30 July, 1904 Panevėžys † 28 July, 1958 Palanga (buried Vilnius), librarian, bibliographer. In 1924, after graduating from Ukmergė gymnasium, he taught Lithuanian at Jurbarkas, Ukmergė and Vilkaviškis Jewish gymnasiums. During 1935-1944, he was the librarian of Vytautas Magnus University and Vilnius University Libraries. In 1940, he graduated from the Faculty of Humanities (history) of Vilnius University, in 1954 – Leningrad Librarian Institute of N. Krupskaya. In 1944, he was deported to Germany for forced labour. In 1946-1951, he was the Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Book Chamber. In 1949-1954, he was the lecturer of Vilnius University and in

1949-1958, he taught in the Technical School of Culture and Education.

Since 1926, he worked as a bibliographer. He compiled the anthology of Lithuanian literature in Hebrew (1932), *the Bibliography and Bio-bibliography of Antanas Smetona* from 1874 to 1934 (1935) and the Lithuanian cultural figures E. Volteris, Mykolas and Vaclovas Biržiška, M. K. Čiurlionis, the "Index of periodicals of Lithuanians and foreign Lithuanians" of 1935 ("Bibliography in the News" and separately). In 1936-1939, he sent articles to the journal "Bibliographic Pedagogique Internationale" in Paris. He prepared a "Bibliographic Description of Lithuanian Agriculture" (about 25,000 entries and manuscript), "Systematic Catalogue of the Lithuanian Books" (1938), book "Library and Bibliographic Terminology" (1956). He translated and added L. Tropovski's "Decimal classification" (1947), "The General Rules for the Description of Publications in Catalogues and Bibliographic Indexes of Mass Libraries" (1955). He had 10,000 volumes in his personal library and a collection of 2,000 ex-LIBRISES, which were given to the Vilnius University Library by his wife V. Kisinienė after his death."

Biography

Until 1915, he studied at the Jewish schools, as only on 1 October, 1915 in Panevėžys the first gymnasium in Lithuania began to work. On 27 July, 1915, when the German troops went to Panevėžys, the considerable part of the population left it already. Izidorius together with the family (parents, brothers Efim, Abraomas and Simonas) went to St. Petersburg. The family returned to Panevėžys in 1918 after signing of the peace treaty in Brest. The brother Efim remained in St. Petersburg and he lived there all his life.

After returning to Lithuania, he began to study in the Ukmergė State Lithuanian Gymnasium (nowadays Ukmergė Antanas Smetona Gymnasium) and finished it in 1924. When he was 15 years old, the nurse Elžbieta died. In 1920, he received the passport and interrupted the communication with the family of his father. As he wrote, that since 14 years he earned a living himself. He lived with Roma in other places, earning a living and education. Since young years, he loved his country and people and was on friendly terms only with Lithuanians. In 1920, he joined the Lithuanian Riflemen Union.

Studying

After the graduating from the gymnasium in 1924, he entered the Humanitarian Faculty of the Lithuanian University (LU). Here he learned Lithuanian language and comparative linguistics and history as the additional specialty. However, he interrupted study for unknown reasons and later he continued to study at the Kaunas University (KU). The destiny disposed so that at the university where he studied, he met with Jonas Jablonskis, Edmundas Valteris, Levas Karsavinas, etc., who taught there at that time. Study defined his further activity.

In 1928, the Ministry of Education suggested Izidorius to continue study at the International Institute of the Bibliography in Brussels. He refused, as he did not know French.

In 1932, he defended the dissertation on the subject "Sketches of Grammar of the Gipsy Language". The Swiss linguist, Prof. Alfredas Senas directed the work. He helped I. Kisinas to form his scientific interests.

Since 1930, Prof. Vaclovas Biržiška gave a course of introduction to the bibliography and history of the Lithuanian book at the Humanitarian Faculty of LU. He was the main teacher for Izidorius as bibliographer and a librarian.

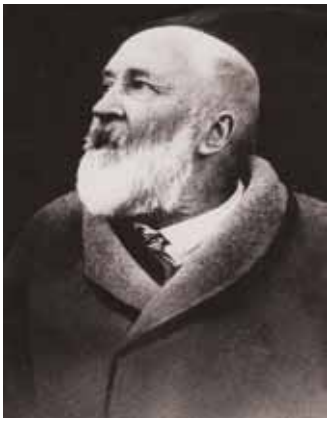
In 1935, Izidorius had the paid opportunity to work half a year in the Polish libraries. It worked not only in libraries of Warsaw and Krakow, but also in the Vilnius University (VU) in Vilnius, occupied by Poland, collecting the interested material.

The son Silvijus claims that after marriage with Valerija Stotkutė the father went to study to Germany, but it is not confirmed by any documents.

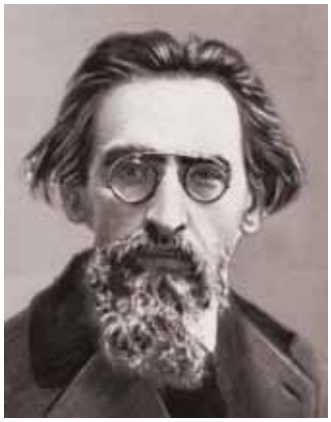
On 11 September, 1940, he graduated from the Historical Department of the Humanitarian Faculty of VU, wrote the diploma "The invention of the press" – about the invention of the printing press by Y. Gutenberg, got the excellent mark and became the expert in general history.

In 1954, he gained the diploma external on specialty "Librarianship" in Leningrad (St. Petersburg, Russia) Librarian Institute of N. Krupskaya, where he wanted to defend the dissertation.

The main teachers of Izidorius Kisinas:



Prof. Jonas Jablonskis



Prof. Levas Korsavinas

Prof. Vaclovas Biržiška

I. Kisinas (on the right) with J. Jablonskis (in the centre) in Palanga, 1929

Family life

In 1925, he married the Jew P. (the full name is unknown). On 30 March, 1927, their daughter Radasta was born. Izidorius looked for the Lithuanian nurse for a long time who knew Lithuanian and could bring up the daughter in the Lithuanian spirit. In 1934, he divorced the first wife (presumably because of the religious beliefs and disagreements in education of the daughter).

After the divorce, P. went to Belgium, and the daughter remained with the father. He sent her to elementary school, and then to the Saulė Gymnasium. The letter of P. from Amsterdam, written in 1935 (Belgium) to Vaclovas Biržiška: "My ex-husband answers nothing. I want to understand where my daughter is". Izidorius tried to get increase to salary on keeping of the daughter, because the daughter was not included in the Jewish registers as her name was not Jewish (Radasta). The subsequent life of the daughter Radasta is unknown. Perhaps, her mother took her away and she continued to live in Belgium.

On 2 June, 1938 he married Valerija Stotkutė, who at that time worked in the library of the KU and there they were acquainted. Prof. Vaclovas Biržiška was a matchmaker at the wedding.

Valerija Stotkutė-Kisinienė was born on 30 September, 1907 in Niaukonys (small district Smilgiai). In 1931-1934, she studied economy in KU, in 1954-1957 – Librarianship in VU. In 1931-1940, she worked in the library of KU, in 1940-1991 – in the library of VU. She helped to keep funds of the library from destruction during war. After Izidorius' death, she gave his personal library (more than 10,000 books) and the collection of ex-LIBRISES (more than 2,000 copies) to the library of VU. She prepared the book "Author's Tables of Libraries of the Lithuanian SSR (1949, 1958 and 1972)". On 15 April, 1947 the son Silvijus was born, whom she grew up and learned herself after the husband's death. Valerija died on 8 October, 1993, she is buried in Vilnius.

Valerija and Izidorius Kisinas

On 15 April, 1947 was born in Vilnius the only son Silvijus. He graduated from the Vienuolis Gymnasium, Mechanical Faculty of the Vilnius Institute of Civil Engineering (now – Vilnius Gediminas Technical University). He got the profession of the mechanic engineer, worked at the plant and served in the internal troops. Silvijus actively played sports, became the judge of national category of the Lithuanian Handball Federation, then the chief judge of league, and the inspector of the Lithuanian Handball Judges Association. He has four children and four grandchildren.

Baptism

In 1935, Izidorius Kisinas accepted baptism in the Kaunas Resurrection Church. Therefore, according to the documents, he was Lithuanian, and in 1941-1944 Nazis did not pursue him. All his descendants are Lithuanians. The Jewish community and the father Jokūbas refused him (as well as the brother Simonas).

Izidorius' petition for baptism remained (it is a short extract from it):

F 1650 ap5

B.513 186 sheet

1935

The Kaunas Resurrection Church sends a petition

187 sheet

The application of Kisinas Icikas, the library bibliographer at the Vytautas Magnus University:

"I've been feeling a Catholic since my youth. When I was in the fifth class, I already wanted to go to the monastery. Whether I was baptized, I do not know and I cannot find any traces, so I have the honour to ask you to allow me to accept St. Baptism according to the customs of the Roman Catholic Church, having given me the name of Izidorius

Kaunas, 15 November, 1935"

Labor activity

At the age of 14 years, he began to work, performing various kinds of work.

In 1927-1934, he was the teacher of Lithuanian and literature in the Jewish gymnasiums of Jurbarkas, Ukmergė and Vilkaviškis.

Further Izidorius' life was connected with the bibliography and librarianship, therefore this activity is described in detail in separate sections. Here it is the short chronological description of his working career:

In 1935-1940, he was the bibliographer of the library of KU.

In 1936, he worked as the lecturer of librarianship on the courses organized by the Ministry of Education.

After liberation of Vilnius in 1939, the Ministry of Education of Lithuania authorized Izidorius to accept the library of the Stefan Bator University. This interstate business was very difficult. It was necessary for Izidorius to fight for many books' collections, of which the library of VU is proud today. Each bigger fund had to be proved by the documents, which it was necessary to find and to understand them well in order the fund remained in Vilnius. There was a persistent fight for the important books, because there were many persons who wanted to appropriate historical books.

In 1940-1944 Izidorius was the Head of the Department of the Bibliography of the VU library at the representation of Vaclovas Biržiška.

In 1946-1951, he was the Deputy Director for the Scientific Part of the Lithuanian Book Chamber.

In 1949-1954, he worked as the hourly lecturer of librarianship of VU.

In 1949-1958, he was the lecturer of the Vilnius Librarianship Technical School.

The years of the German occupation

The war did not also avoid I. Kisinas's family. His brothers Simonas and the Doctor of Natural Sciences Abraomas went to the Kaunas ghetto, and in 1944, they were taken out to the concentration camp of Dachau, where Abraomas died. Izidorius avoided the brothers' fate. In the years of occupation, he worked in the library of VU (before its closing in 1943). Though Izidorius was Lithuanian according to the documents, he was threatened by the fate of Jews, because, having received the documents, Germans did not understand – "the Jewish surname and that's all". Therefore, his wife Valerija Stotkutė-Kisinienė appealed for the help to the Academician Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius, who worked at the university. They say that he put the visa: "Everything is all right, do not touch". After closing of the university, he moved with the family to the brother-in-law in Jurbarkas district.

Further Izidorius' life at the end of the German occupation and at the beginning of the second Soviet occupation is presented differently in various sources. Izidorius himself wrote the official version of it in his autobiography: "On the second day of war I remained in the library at night and I stayed there until 1944, then I moved with the family to the brother-in-law, from where I was taken out for work to Germany". It is written so in the article of the Lithuanian Soviet Encyclopaedia, etc. The article of the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia, V.X, repeats: "In 1944 he was taken out to Germany for forced labour". It was impossible to write differently in the Soviet period.

However, the son Silvijus claims that Izidorius went to Germany voluntarily, because not only young Kisinas', but the mother and Valerija's brother family

retreated, as the Red Army was approaching, and many Lithuanian patriots, among whom there were the Professors Vaclovas Biržiška and Antanas Salis also retreated.

From the story by Silvijus mother, it became known that she and her brother's family met the American army on the River Elba.

Soviet period (1944-1958)

So, in 1946 Izidorius and his wife returned to Lithuania. Thus, the ways of Izidorius Kisinas and Vaclovas Biržiška, who went further to the west, dispersed and never crossed. However, some invisible communications or similar destinies, apparently, connected these people. It was difficult for V. Biržiška to be adapted in America, and it was difficult for I. Kisinas to live in Lithuania. Having returned, he was legalized, though as the students living with him remembered, he endured each deportations to Siberia with alarm, listened to sounds by the passing trucks with fear. The son Silvijus said, that his mother told about the father that he came back from Germany and was summoned to State Security Committee during a long period of time (as he was in the American zone and for some reason came back, but did not follow to the west with colleagues). They demanded to persuade Professors V. Biržiška, A. Salis to return to Lithuania. His wife went along the street, waiting for him and not knowing whether he went out or he would be closed. I. Kisinas did not give in to pressure and, maybe, its future at the university could be explained by that.

In 1946-1951 Izidorius worked as the Deputy Director for the Scientific Work in the Lithuanian Book Chamber and on 1 September, 1950 he was accepted only as the "hourly" lecturer of librarianship of VU. There were many people at the university to whom Izidorius for some reason was not pleasant. Behind his shoulders, they saw a shadow of Antanas Smetona bibliography. And the truth was that the wife of one military man Lidiya Galitskikh, who arrived from Moscow to work as the lecturer and did not know Lithuanian, wrote reviews about Izidorius' lectures. The main figure, who came from the Department of Marxism to the position of the senior lecturer of the Department of the Lithuanian Literature, Levas Vladimirovas (later he was appointed as the Head of the Department of Librarianship), without being an expert, just decided to get rid of the competitor.

In August, 1954, the Head of the Department Levas Vladimirovas wrote to the Personnel Department of the University: "In connection with the reduction of the load, I ask you for dismissal of Kisinas Izidorius as the hourly lecturer from the 1st September". What innocent reason for dismissal from the position...

Izidorius remained to be the lecturer in the Librarianship Technical School (later the Technical School of Culture and Education), where since 1949 and up to his premature death in 1958 he was the main authoritative lecturer of library specialties.

Scientific work – the bibliographer

Izidorius Kisinas is one of the largest Lithuanian bibliographers, the author of the Systematic Catalogue of the Lithuanian Books. He could be deservedly considered the second Lithuanian bibliographer after V. Biržiška, who had the main qualities of the bibliographer – diligence and erudition.

Visiting library of KU, encouraged with the director of the library Prof. V. Biržiška, Izidorius became interested in bibliographic activity, which became the main goal of his life. In the autobiography, he claimed that he joined the bibliographic activity in 1926. Possibly, at that time he began to prepare the bibliography of the former Prof. of KU E. Volteris, published in 1928. He fruitfully cooperated with the magazine "Knowledge of the Bibliography", which began to be issued in 1928 (editor V. Biržiška). He was the actual editor of "Knowledge of the bibliography" since 1938. In 1931, "Bibliography of Prof. M. Biržiška" prepared by I. Kisinas (K., 1931) appeared. It was the first step of Izidorius in the field of the personal bibliography. Izidorius summarized the literature about E. Volteris and his works, published in 1877-1928. The Lithuanian philology dominated in the subject of the books. The bibliography was positively assessed by the bibliographers of that time. Maybe, it helped Izidorius to become the paid non-staff employee of the Lithuanian Institute of Bibliography. I already mentioned that the Ministry of Education suggested him to continue training at the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels, but he refused because he did not know French.

In 1932, "Anthology of Lithuanian Literature" was published (in Hebrew). At that time, he worked as the teacher of Lithuanian language and literature in the Jewish gymnasiums of Jurbarkas, Ukmergė, Vilkaviškis. Combining pedagogical and bibliographic work, he began to collect material for the huge work "Bibliography

and Bio-bibliography of Antanas Smetona" (covering the period of 1874-1934). This choice was probably connected with the forthcoming jubilee – the 60th anniversary of A. Smetona. Maybe, V. Biržiška transferred this order.

Working as the teacher in the province, he could not carry out the preparation of the book quickly. With the permission of the Ministry of Education, Izidorius moved to Kaunas and began to work in the library of the Vytautas Magnum University (VMU) in 1935. V. Biržiška created for him good conditions for work. It was also the fine school of the bibliography, which gave him new knowledge and skills. He was keen on phenomenal diligence of V. Biržiška. Izidorius became his excellent assistant. The period of his work in VMU was very productive.

Those years he intensively worked to finish the preparation of the bibliography of A. Smetona. I. Kisinas wrote about this: "Work, of course, would not be such as it was now if I had no support. First, the support of the hero of the anniversary (i.e. A. Smetona – *author*) and also of my teacher and the inspirer in the field of the bibliography Prof. Vaclovas Biržiška, who reconsidered my work and gave me very important advice". Prof. V. Biržiška advised Izidorius to change the section of literature about A. Smetona from chronological to thematic one. He wrote the preface to this bibliographic work in which he emphasized extraordinary diligence of I. Kisinas. Those days Liudas Gira called this work extraordinary. The hardworking bibliographer devoted nearly seven years to this work. He reconsidered about 3,000 of newspapers and many books. This work was given to A. Smetona in 1935. At the delivery ceremony of V. Biržiška, the Minister of Education Juozas Tomkūnas, the Vice Minister Kazimieras Masilūnas, Chairman of the Commission for Publishing Books of the Ministry of Education Liudas Gira (this commission published the bibliography of A. Smetona) were present.

In 1936, "The Index of the periodicals of Lithuanians and Foreign Lithuanians 1935" was published. In 1938, "Bibliography of M. K. Čiurlionis" was published in the book "M. K. Čiurlionis", in which the bibliographer collected M. K. Čiurlionis' articles, publications of musical works and articles about the artist's pictures. In 1938, the second part of the "Bibliography of Prof. Mykolas Biržiška" was published (works of 1928-1938 and addition to the first part) prepared by I. Kisinas. In two parts of the bibliography, Izidorius registered 8,266 works of M. Biržiška in several languages. Their subject was very different: events of political and social life, history of education, culture, press and literature, etc. The index was notable for its detail. We can find the material of several lines for Encyclopaedias and edited articles. Such detailing has the advantages while studying the history

of the periodical press. Izidorius helped V. Biržiška with the creation of the capital bibliographic edition of "The Lithuanian Bibliography".

I. Kisinas published the articles on bibliography and methodology. In 1936-1940, he took part in the edition of "The Lithuanian Encyclopaedia". He created the transcription of foreign languages' alphabets with the Lithuanian letters, collected the terms of librarianship and the bibliography and wrote articles on preparation of the bibliographical means. His great work "The Bibliography of Lithuanian Agriculture" remained in the manuscript. The Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture in Dotnuva got his card file. This work did not still lose its scientific and information value. In the bibliography of agriculture, Izidorius included about 25,000 units of the press. It covers the literature published from the middle of the 18th century (T. Lerner's work "Der Preussische Littauer", 1744) until 1938. The bibliographer described the development of the Lithuanian agriculture in various aspects: historical, biological, economic, etc. There is also an ethnographic material in it. Izidorius collected the bibliography of the Lithuanian pedagogy and sent it to the International Pedagogical Institute in Geneva. He was going to prepare bibliographic indexes of the Lithuanian linguistics, fiction and scientific literature. These ideas for various reasons remained not realized.

Knowing about a huge number of Prof. V. Biržiška's works, I. Kisinas began to describe them. He prepared the description for the 50th anniversary of Professor in 1934, but he added it and published only in 1940. In the first part of the bibliography (published), he described 787 works and disclosed 84 pseudonyms of V. Biržiška. In the second part of the bibliography, 8,762 long and short articles of Professor were described, published in "The Lithuanian Encyclopaedia" until 6 December, 1938. The second part also was not published. The political events, beginning in the world, changed the life of many people and the fates of Vaclovas Biržiška and Izidorius Kisinas as well.

The most important work of I. Kisinas' life is "The systematic catalogue of the Lithuanian books" which was published by the Lithuanian publishers of books in 1938. Izidorius was preparing the catalogue for two years. The author wanted to present the most complete bibliographic description, to disclose contents of publications. Repeatedly Izidorius asked publishers for giving him in one-copy editions, but only the few responded. It was necessary for him to look for publications himself. Because of these obstacles, some gaps appeared in the catalogue. The catalogue was limited only by the production, which was in book-trade: the most important Lithuanian editions since the beginning of the

XX century and the most part of the books, magazines and periodicals of 1918-1937. In the catalogue, 7,033 publications were registered. It became important not only for book-trade, but also for a valuable source of information for scientific work and schools. The contents of magazines and periodicals, which raised the informative value of the edition, were especially important feature of I. Kisinas' catalogue. Reviewers found smalls minus in the catalogue, but it did not reduce its importance. The experts of various areas still do not do without this catalogue.

Izidorius continued bibliographic work in the post-war years. He translated and filled up "The Decimal classification" of L. Tropovsky (1947); he prepared "The General Rules for the Description of Publications in Catalogues and Bibliographic Indexes of Mass Libraries" (1955) and published it.

The researcher of ethnic minorities (Roma, Karaits, Jews)

I. Kisinas studied the life and the language of Roma and Karaits, collected and investigated the Baltic loans of the Jewish speech. He creatively used any opportunity for material accumulation. His contemporary A. Ruzgas mentioned such an event. Izidorius, following by the train from Kaunas to Marijampolė, managed to write down from someone about a hundred of words, which were then used by thieves and musicians of Vilnius.

I. Kisinas became the main gypsy specialist of interwar Lithuania in its cultural history. He was the first (about 1926) who began to be interested in history, life and especially in the language of Roma. He communicated much with Roma and travelled with the camp of the Hungarian Roma for two summers. He knew well the Gipsy language. Silvijus, the son of Izidorius, which was present at the father's conversation with Roma, testified to it. When the Gipsy suggested the father to tell fortunes, he started talking their language. Then the Gipsy rushed to abuse the father, suspecting that he ran away from the camp of Roma. Izidorius published the results of his researches in scientific and publicist articles. He prepared the book "Gipsies" („Čigonai") together with Antanas Salis in which they concisely described the history of Roma of Lithuania and the whole Europe, their culture, features of language (A. Salys, I. Kisinas, 1936). The son Silvijus keeps the rich material of the Gipsy grammar.

I. Kisinas began to prepare the anthology of the Lithuanian writers' works in Hebrew ("*Antologija shel hasifrut halitait*", 1932). He managed to publish only

one volume devoted to creativity of V. Krėvė-Mickevičius. He came into contacts with the Lithuanian authors; his first book was met very favourably. The efforts of the Jewish translators to present to the tribespeople the Lithuanian literature were apprehended as a positive step on the way of mutual knowledge.

The letter of I. Kisinas to J. Tumas-Vaižgantas remained. "Dear Professor! With this letter, I have the honour to invite you to the preparing Jewish evening of the literature in Lithuanian and Hebrew, which is the first one that the Jews of Lithuania prepared. I believe that you, dear Professor, will not refuse to attend this evening to be able to see that the Jews have already learned the Lithuanian language and understand a little the Lithuanian literature and to listen to the living language of Hebrew."

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- ✓ Prof. Mykolo Biržiškos bibliografija, pirmoji dalis, 1931
- ✓ Lietuvių literatūros antologija (hebrajų kalba), 1932
- ✓ Antano Smetonos bibliografija ir biobibliografija, 1874–1934, 1935
- ✓ A. Salys, I. Kisinas „Čigonai", 1936
- ✓ Lietuvos ir užsienio lietuvių 1935 periodikos rodyklė, 1936
- ✓ Lietuviškų knygų sisteminis katalogas, 1938
- ✓ M. K. Čiurliono bibliografija, 1938
- ✓ Prof. Mykolo Biržiškos bibliografija, antroji dalis, 1938
- ✓ Prof. Vaclovo Biržiškos bibliografija, 1940
- ✓ Dešimtainė klasifikacija, 1947
- ✓ Bendrinės spaudinių aprašo taisyklės masinių bibliotekų katalogams ir bibliografinėms rodyklėms, 1955
- ✓ Bibliotekinė ir bibliografinė terminologija, 1956
- ✓ Čigonų gramatikos metmenys (the manuscript is kept by the son Silvijus Kisinas)
- ✓ Lietuvos žemės ūkio bibliografija (it remained in the manuscript, its card file was taken by the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture in Dotnuva)

Pedagogical Work

I. Kisinas began his pedagogical activity in 1927 when he had to teach Lithuanian and literature in the Jewish gymnasiums of Jurbarkas, Ukmergė and Vilkaviškis (1927-1934) because of living conditions.

Pedagogical work on librarianship he began in 1936 when with small breaks he taught the library courses organized by the Ministry of Education.

On 1 September, 1940 the Department of Bibliology was created on Philological Department of the Humanitarian Faculty of VU, and Vaclovas Biržiška was approved as its head. The Department of Bibliology had to be added with one member, but it was unsuccessfully. On 21 February, 1941 the Head of the Department of Bibliology proposed I. Kisinas' candidacy at the meeting of the Humanitarian Faculty council, and by the majority votes he was elected to this position. It was supposed that the new assistant would conduct classes on Bibliography and Librarianship (he had the experience of catalogue lecturing), but the National Commissariat of Education did not approve his candidacy.

Izidorius Kisinas as the follower of Vaclovas Biržiška, in the post-war years began to care of creation the Department of Librarianship in VU. The library specialty was restored in VU since 1949-1950 academic year. On 1 September, 1950 Izidorius was accepted only as the hourly lecturer of librarianship. Izidorius actively worked, preparing the programs of the taught subjects and performing other work on restoration of library specialty at the university. The main thing was that he took care of students that they could carry out practice in Leningrad and Moscow. It was not only library practice. It allowed Kisinas' "children", as Izidorius called the students, to be acquainted with the large megalopolises of Russia, with the Russian culture – galleries, museums, concerts. These were not only the Soviet attributes. The library education got the competent lecturer. The students faced not only widely erudite and exacting lecturer who did not recognize any concessions to lazy students, but also with a very friendly personality; he communicated with students, willingly advised them at the department after the lectures, participated in student's campaigns and invited them to home. When one student complained that he was afraid of coming examination in Lithuanian, the former favourite student of Jonas Jablonskis, as Izidorius was and later taught Lithuanian in the Jewish gymnasiums, consulted the student in this area. It is necessary to remember, that teaching Lithuanian,

Izidorius was the real propagandist of the Lithuanian literature in the Jewish community.

The specialty of librarianship in the beginning was studied at the Department of the Lithuanian Literature. In the autumn of 1952, to the auxiliary position of the senior lecturer of the Department of the Lithuanian Literature Levas Vladimirovas came from the Department of Marxism. In the autumn, 1952 the Dean of the Historical and Philological Faculty, emphasizing that there were not enough specialists (it was clear that Kisinas was ignored), mediated at appointment him (L. Vladimirovas, *author*) as the Head of the Department of Librarianship because he worked as the Director of the University Library since 1948. So the Department of Librarianship was created. Except I. Kisinas who was already there, those who came to the department, at best, worked in the libraries, the others had nothing in common with the library science and only began to specialize, and I. Kisinas could seem to someone too big and uncomfortable figure.

It is hard to say whether it was a spirit of the age or someone's private interests (perhaps, both the first and the second) that promoted dark clouds to be accumulated over I. Kisinas quickly enough. In 1952-1953, he was checked more often than other teachers were; his lectures were discussed at the department and, the lecturers checked and reviewed them, who did not understand anything in librarianship and even did not know Lithuanian. At last, Izidorius was dismissed from the position of the hourly teacher by Levas Vladimirovas's efforts since 1 September, 1954.

Izidorius Kisinas was not the only one who suffered from such a fate. It was such a Soviet period. He remained to be the teacher in the Librarianship Technical School (later it became the Technical School of Culture and Education), where he was the main authoritative teacher of library specialties since 1949 until his premature death in 1958.

Žiedūnė Zaveckienė in the article „Vaclovo Biržiškos bendražygis Izidorius Kisinas"*("The colleague of Vaclovas Biržiška Izidorius Kisinas") („Knygotyra"– "Bibliology", 1997, 33)* writes: "It is pleasant for me, as the former student of I. Kisinas, to remember him as the bright educator, the interesting person. He taught the basic courses of librarianship, funds and catalogues in the Vilnius Librarianship Technical School since 1949 up to his death in 1958."

"Many years passed. The big group of the qualified lecturers of library disciplines grew. The Library Department was divided into branches. However,

it is necessary not to remember Izidorius Kisinas, who laid the way to library science in dark post-war conditions" („Voruta", 28/8/1999. Izidorius Kisinas. Stasė Vaškelienė).

The man of extraordinary intelligence, erudition and just a beautiful person

Izidorius was not only the great bibliographer, librarian and the educator, but also the expert in the Lithuanian history, literature and language. He had a large personal library. In free time, as well as his teacher V. Biržiška, he liked to read the adventure books by F. Cooper, M. Ride, J. Verne and other authors. He collected rare Lithuanian editions. Many of them he presented to Books House. The editions presented by I. Kisinas can be found also in the former library of KU. Only in 1936, he enriched the library with nearly one hundred Lithuanian and foreign books and periodicals. He also presented eight volumes of the Great Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Brockhaus, books by A. Senas, J. Basanavičius, K. Būga, P. Tarasenka, E. Volteris, foreign publications of fiction and philology. These editions are noted by the modest ex-libris of I. Kisinas.

In Izidorius library there were nearly 10 thousand books. They occupied a considerable part of the big apartment. Silvijus remembers: "After the death of the father we could not keep books in the apartment. The apartment was big, and the father as the scientist, had the right for the excessive area; after death the payment for the excessive area made the double salary of mum. The apartment was freed and received the 3-roomed apartment in Antakalnis. Mum presented books to the library of VU in which it worked as the librarian."

He was obsessed and other passion of the collector – collecting and studying of the Lithuanian ex-librises (the bookplates certifying the owner of the book). It also had collections of the Polish, Russian ex-librises and ex-librises of countries of Western Europe. The collection includes (what archival records) 2 thousand superex-librises (ex-librises on a book cover testify to) and ex-librises. Now they are stored in a graphic office of VU library. Ex-librises are accurately laid in affairs on 30-40 pieces – about 60 cases. Each ex-libris is pasted on the single elastic sheet. Part of them are restored. In a collection there are ex-librises of the XVI and XVII-XX centuries. Most of them Polish – more than 900, only 34 affairs.

They still are in others, to especially Lithuanian ex-librises intended, affairs because old libraries of the Lithuanian noblemen were most often registered in Polish. There are old and year prescription ex-librises.

Apparently, I. Kisinas collected the majority of ex-librises approximately in 1936-1958, when worked in libraries Kaunas (1935-1940) and Vilnius (1940-1944) of the universities, in the Lithuanian Book Chamber (1943-1949), the Vilnius Librarianship Technical School (1949-1958). From where ex-librises are received – it is only possible to guess. He could receive ex-librises of the third and fourth decades of the XX century from artists or owners of ex-librises officially. Some of them could be received from obligatory copies. The remained leaves are stored in KU library. Some are received from Aleksandras Rožantovas (records by a pencil on other party of an ex-libris testify to it). Are available pulled out from various books (can be, from destroyed, for example, from the Jewish libraries).

I. Kisinas' collection of ex-librises is the important fact both of art and of bibliology. It contains bookplates in different languages and of different states; their most part reflects rich collections of libraries from Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, etc. There are separate ex-librises even from the small countries. Engravers and artists of different times created many of them. Various technicians carried out ex-librises. Lithuanian ones in the majority are multiplied by the technique of cartography, zincography and lithography. After I. Kisinas' death, his wife V. Kisinienė disinterestedly presented all his collection to the library of VU. This collection can be used here for the purposes and needs of science and art.

Some ex-librises of the collection:

Valenrod's Family Library, nearly 1715. Created the library Martin von Valenrod. 1619, he was appointed as the Chancellor of the Prussian Duchy

Henry Schmid, the end of XIX century – the beginning of the XX century

Mykolas Biržiška
1926

Emanuel Kant – the beginner of classics of German philosophy – the end of the XVIII century

Count von Kaiserling, known from the XVIII century in Lithuania

Ernst Kelchner,
1850

Izidorius Kisinas (1904–1958), bibliographer and librarian

K. Naryshkina, the end of the XVIII century – the beginning of the of the XIX century

P. Galaunė, the beginning of the XX century. The art. P. Galaunė

Tadas Petkevičius, the first half of the XX century

Eduardas Volteris (1856-1941), bibliographer, Prof. of KU

Dukes of the Radziwills, the end of the XVII century – the beginning of the XVIII century

Izidorius also collected postal stamps. He had a very rich Lithuanian collection, the first brands that had the fabulous price. Silvijus remembers: "Mother sold the collection, because it was very difficult to live. Mother's salary was 470 rubbles, and the father's one was 5,000 rubbles. What was the difference in living conditions after the dad's death? Many things changed after his death. The father also wrote books, they were well paid. Even after his death they paid a little for the published books."

From everything that the person is given, the greatest gift is the life itself, which, as it appeared, Izidorius used to live, rejoice and do things. The journalist, the writer and the poet Bronys Raila remembers: "What darling and interesting person he was, when the mood of a moment fell off with a lump – "to look for the lost time". He was quiet and solar, without tough policy and bloody battles, among the cheerful friends and the youthful charm, on the sandy seashore, with the roaring waves, in the summer of 1930..." („Dienovidis" – "Meridian", 7/10/1994, No. 36; „*Smėlio pėdsakais*" – "On sandy traces").

We will remember Izidorius Kisinas – the famous bibliographer, the remarkable teacher and the researcher of ethnic minorities of Lithuania, the propagandist of the Lithuanian culture and literature, who left indelible marks of the activity. He is also attractive as the creative person differing in rare diligence and erudition. The current bibliographers and researchers of history of the Lithuanian culture can learn to much from him.

Izidorius Kisinas died, having a rest in Palanga, on 28 July, 1958. He is buried in Vilnius at the cemetery of Senosios Rasos – the Old Race.

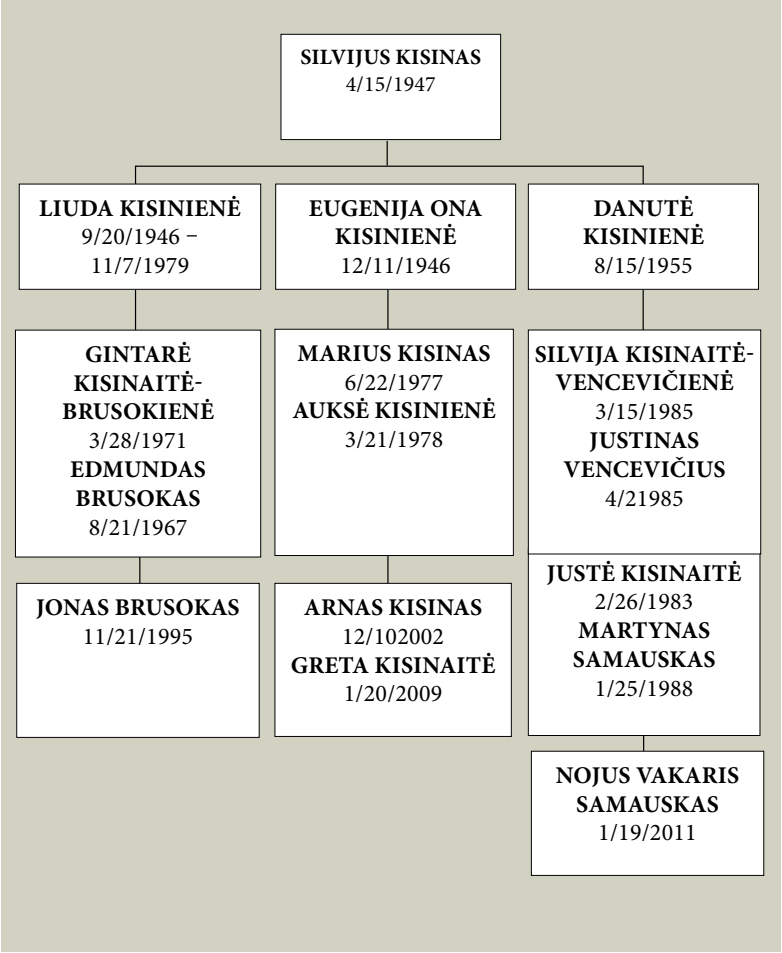
SON

Silvijus Kisinas

(4/15/1947)

I was born on 15 April, 1947 in the family of scientists in Vilnius in Pilis Str., which strongly suffered from war. Children played on its ruins.

The family of Silvijus Kisinas



I studied at the first man's secondary school (Antanas Vienuolis Progymnasium now). The Vilnius women's Salomėja Neris secondary school was near; in 1954, it was transformed into the mixed secondary school (Salomėja Neris Gymnasium now). There were only boys in the first classes of our school, and in September, 1954 the pupils began to study in the mixed classes.

I was the youngest in the class because I began to study at the age of only 6,5 years. In several years, my mother and I remembered that I was accepted to study with the condition that I would not escape. If I do not escape – they will leave me. The class teacher with the attendant has come to our house and asked whether to leave me to study or I will come next year. They decided to leave me. I already learned something; therefore, it was boring for me in the first class. After graduating from school in 1964 (I was 17 years old), I had a strong trump that I would not be taken away in the army because they called from 19 years.

On 28 July, 1958 the father suddenly died, and we had to leave the big apartment on Pilis Str. and to move to the three-room apartment in Antakalnis. After the father's death, we lived three together: mother, grandmother and I. We called the grandmother „babunytė" ("babulention"), she died in 1964.

I cannot remember something especially interesting from my youth.

Further, it was study in a higher educational institution. I entered the Mechanical Faculty of the Vilnius Institute of Civil Engineering (nowadays Vilnius Gediminas Technical University). I studied the automation of the process of machines' production. I graduated from the institute in 1971, having received the profession of the mechanic engineer.

I began to work at the plant of grinders (later transformed to JSC – Joint-Stock Company "Grinding machines", it is attached to JSC „Vingriai" now). My first salary was 120 rubbles. I worked there until the service in internal troops.

I served as the Commander of auxiliary subunit in the Soviet internal troops and got the Major's rank.

Sports career

My sports career began in 1978-1979 (being in internal troops). All my life I went in for sports, at the institute I played handball, participated in competitions. When I began to work in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I was offered refereeing. It was my hobby. We did not earn reward, we received daily

allowance – 2,60 rubbles. Now referees receive huge money. In 1988-1989 we were paid several (to 20) rubbles for a match.

In 1981, I got the Republican category of the judge of handball, in 1988 – the Union category.

Chief Judge, inspector

We tried to organize interesting routes through Moscow in the summer. It was necessary to participate in the competitions in Russia, Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Lviv, Mukachevo, etc.), Azerbaijan (Baku), Uzbekistan (Tashkent), Poland, etc.

We wanted to get to Vladivostok (Russia), but you will not really leave. Plane tickets cost very much. My salary was 150-200 rubbles but only the one-way ticket from Vilnius to Vladivostok cost 709 rubbles.

There are some more interesting memoirs.

Transcarpathia (Ukraine). **Mukachevo** is small, but very interesting city, which up and down I proceeded. Good climate, cherry blossoms in the spring – it is indescribable beauty! In Vilnius, they also blossom. We visited competitions in Berehovo, Khust. There we were carried to mountains where carbonated

mineral water flowed from under the ground. Everybody comes there with canisters. In Khust, there were competitions for 12-13-year-old children for 4-5 days, and we were 12 days there – the excellent summer holiday on the river Tisza. In general, Transcarpathia is the fairy tale and when the competitions were held there, we asked to go there.

Lviv (Ukraine, the headquarters of the Carpathian Military District is there) reminds Vilnius, and its central street is like in Kaunas – Laisvė Av. The centre of the avenue is also as in Kaunas; it is surrounded with the trees and is used for rest, only side lines are for transport (in Kaunas – for pedestrians). The name of the street is the same: Svoboda Avenue – Laisvės Alėja. We were lodged in garrison five-floor hotel (the top floor is for Generals, we lived there). The stadium and the Palace of Sports are nearby. The Deputy Commander of the District the Lieutenant General Kalinin accepted us and participated in the competitions. We went to the airport by the Commander's car directly to the plane. The crew was constructed – they were waiting for the big chiefs. However, only two men in jeans and sports shirts went out of the car. The black "Volga" in 1986 (at the time of M. Gorbachev) meant much.

I saw much enough – we flew by military planes and floated on warships. In Baku (Azerbaijan), when the President Heydar Aliyev went to work, nearly an hour all the vehicles stopped and people were not allowed to go. We lived in a hotel not far from the government palace and saw everything.

In Tashkent (Uzbekistan), I saw a knife from the Damask steel for the first time. Its appearance, the poured colours mean much. However, its price was 700 rubbles – it is a half of my salary. In the Finnish shop of Vilnius, there was a table knife. I wanted to present it to my girlfriend (the actual wife) because she had a cafe and constantly was engaged in cooking. Two years ago the knife cost 370 litas. Until I was adjusted, the knives disappeared –they were bought up.

Silvijus' daughter Justė Kisinaitė continues the story.

My father was married several times. With the first wife Liuda (20/9/1946 – 7/11/1979) they waited for the firstborn – the daughter Gintarė (born 28/3/1971).They divorced after five years of matrimonial life. The daughter lived with the mother until her death and then with the grandmother, Izidorius' widow Valerija. After her death, Gintarė lived in the family of the last wife of Silvijus Danutė.

With the second wife Eugenija Ona (11/12/1946), they waited for the only son Marius (born 22/6/1977) and they lived together only three years. Marius was only two years old, when Eugenija took away the son and went to live to Klaipėda where she lives to this day.

At last, he married the famous prosecutor Danutė in 1981. They lived for 12 years and had two daughters – Silvija and me. Parents divorced in 1993.

My father has four grandchildren: Jonas – the son of Gintarė, Arnas and Greta – Marius' children, Nojus Vakaris – the son of Justė.

I do not want to speak about the reasons of my parents' divorce; I want only to notice that Silvijus' life itself has led to it, his frequent journeys with teams, official trips and so forth when there is no time left for family and children. Not all the wives of military men, athletes, variety actors and man of some other specialties endure such life.

Only a few joint photos of the father and daughters Justė and Silvija remained.

I am several months old, with the dad and mum

My first birthday with dad and mum, sister Gintarė and cousin Mindaugas

My second birthday with the dad and mum

After a long separation in 2001, when I was 18 years old, almost all the family gathered together – the dad, sisters Silvija and Gintarė with the son Jonas, the brother Marius and I.

On the left – Silvija, Marius, Justė, dad, Jonas, Gintarė

The same year I and the sister Silvija met Gintarė and her husband Edmundas, and Silvija met the dad and the brother Marius

Father, Silvija and Marius

My sister Gintarė with the husband Edmundas, Silvija and I

The dad was present at Silvija's wedding and at the ceremonies of delivery the Bachelor's and the Master's degrees.

2008 – Silvija is a Bachelor of laws with mum and dad

2010 – Silvija is the Master of laws with Justė, mum and dad

That is all that I managed to find in our family archives. The father Silvijus lives his life with the girlfriend (the actual wife) Irena, we live our own life.

The father, as before, works as the Chief Judge of the Lithuanian Handball Federation and the inspector of the Lithuanian Handball Judges Association.

SILVIJUS KISINAS' CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

DAUGHTER

Gintarė Kisinaitė-Brusokienė

(28/3/1971)

GINTARĖ KISINAITĖ-BRUSOKIENĖ
28/3/1971
EDMUNDAS BRUSOKAS
21/8/1967

JONAS BRUSOKAS
21/11/1995

Gintarė was born on March 28, 1971 in Vilnius in Liuda and Silvijus's family. She attended the kindergarten. Gintarė graduated from the secondary school and the Economic Faculty of Vilnius University. Within 15 years, she is working as the chief financier of the company. She is married and has the son Jonas who finished Gabija Gymnasium and now he studies at Vilnius University.

GRANDSON

Jonas Brusokas

(21/11/1995)

Jonas was born on November 21, 1995 in Vilnius in the family of Gintarė and Edmundas. He attended the kindergarten. He finished Gabija Gymnasium. He studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) of Vilnius University (VU). Then he actively joined in the work of Vilnius University Student Representatives' at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (VU SR FMI). He is the representative of the project VU SR FMI "Students for students" and the representative of students of the First Stage (Bachelors) in "Programs and systems".

SON

Marius Kisinas

(22/6/1977)

Marius was born on June 22, 1977 in Vilnius in the family of Ona Eugenija and Silvijus. After several years of marriage, the parents divorced, and mother with the son went to Klaipėda where they live now. He attended the kindergarten. He finished secondary school. He worked at different works. Now he works in the Lithuanian-Swedish company „Solorina“ which is the main dealer of TOYOTA in Klaipėda. He married Auksė and they have two children – the son and the daughter. He loves the nature.

GRANDSON

Arnas Kisinas

(10/12/2002)

Arnas was born on December 10, 2002 in Klaipėda in the family of Marius and Auksė. He attended the kindergarten. He studies in Pranas Mašiotas Progymnasium. He studies well, has many friends, loves sport, plays soccer, rides a snowboard in the winter, likes to gather mushrooms, and he is lucky in everything. He loves music and participates in school ensemble of folk music.

GRANDDAUGHTER

Greta Kisinaitė

(20/1/2009)

Greta was born on January 20, 2009 in Klaipėda in the family of Marius and Auksė. She attended the kindergarten. Now she studies in the primary classes of Pranas Mašiotas Progymnasium. She is in friendly terms with the elder brother Arnas; they often gather mushrooms. She loves music and plays the piano. Everybody love her. The father, mother and the brother Arnas adore the daughter and the little sister.

DAUGHTER

Justė Kisinaitė

(26/2/1983)

JUSTĖ KISINAITĖ
26/2/1983
MARTYNAS SAMAUSKAS
25/1/1988

NOJUS VAKARIS SAMAUSKAS
1/19/2011

Justė was born on 26 February, 1983 in Vilnius in the family of sportsman, the judge of the republican category on handball and the prosecutor of the Vilnius district prosecutor's department. She attended the kindergarten, graduated from the Vilnius Gabija Gymnasium and received the degrees of the Bachelor and the Master of Laws at the Mykolas Romeris University. Within five years, she worked as the lawyer manager of CJSC "Capital Development Group". Further, she went to policy and since 2009, she is the administrator of the political party "Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania". Later she became the project manager and nowadays she is the Deputy Execute Secretary. She is married and has the son; then she divorced from husband. She raises the son herself. She is fluent in English and Russian languages, likes to travel; she watches and plays basketball, likes skis, wakeboarding and dances.

GRANDSON

Nojus Vakaris Samauskas

(19/1/2011)

Nojus Vakaris was born on January 19, 2011 in Vilnius in the family of Justė and Martynas. He attends Saturday school – studies at home, in addition he visits lessons in preparatory group: four lessons – the Lithuanian and English languages, mathematics and art. In 2017, he began to visit preschool group in order to be easier integrated into school life

DAUGHTER

Silvija Kisinaitė-Vencevičienė

(15/3/1985)

Silvija was born on 5 March, 1985 in Vilnius in the family of sportsman, the judge of republican category on handball and the prosecutor of the Vilnius district prosecutor's department. She finished Vilnius Gabija Gymnasium, studied Law and the English philology and got the degrees of the Bachelor and the Master. She studied in South Korea and Belgium. She entered the party of the Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (LMRL) and participated in its activity. She probation in the European Parliament and worked as the assistant to the member of European Parliament Leonidas Donskis. Further professional activity was not connected with policy any more. She is engaged in more legal activity in the fields of economy and tourism. Now she works as the chief specialist in tourism and she is the Director of the Public Company on work with the European projects. She perfectly speaks English and Russian languages and learns French. She is married. The motto of her life is, "Dreams come true for those who, dreaming, work hard at the same time."

EPILOGUE

Such is the history of the Jokūbas (Jacob) Kisinas' family, which began in the XIX century. We did not manage to find deeper roots, but the fact that we found, was enough to understand what we were and what we are today. The genealogical foundation is laid in Lithuania (and, perhaps, in Russia), where they lived, endured two wars, revolutions, occupations, the tragedy of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, but remained not only in Lithuania and extended worldwide. Now Jokūbas Kisinas' descendants live in Lithuania, in Ukraine, in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Israel, Russia and, perhaps, in the United States of America. In addition, everywhere we were the decent people who did not get lost in bogs of the evil.

In a word, we are just people; we lived and we live on conscience; we did not avoid mistakes on which we learned themselves.

Life goes on. One of us leave, others remain and wait for descendants. The destiny is intended to all, everyone chooses the own way in life. Let it will be the same as their great-grandfathers, grandmothers and grandfathers and their parents passed, but even more perfect one that your descendants could be proud of you as we are proud of our ancestors and descendants.

Some words more. Do not make such mistakes, which you can avoid in order not to drop the advantage. Do not forget the relatives, try to learn more about the relatives from your childhood, continue the family essay, which we begun as the notable (and not even strong and rich) dynasties did when, being illiterate, they handed down the patrimonial stories. Let us remember at least the national folklore, which created, kept and transferred from generation to generation throughout centuries. Store the past. Because the person without the past is like a tree without roots.

Author

AFTER THE EPILOGUE

When the Lithuanian and Russian versions of my book were issued, I received many comments and just letters of my readers. Rectors of the universities, heads of libraries, my former soldiers, cadets, just colleagues and friends on Facebook (they are about one hundred), Odnoklassniki.ru, etc. wrote. Even the employee of the Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library **Daiva Martinkutė** expressed such a fear that "If the edition is in the Internet, it is more difficult to sell paper version of the book". It was necessary to explain that the book is already in the Internet and it is published by such small copies (the Lithuanian version – 50 copies, the Russian – 20 copies, future English version – 25 copies). It is intended only for the members of the Kisinas' family (including the small children), close friends and colleagues, libraries of some universities, the largest cities of Lithuania and military units and, of course, the Military Academy of Lithuania. All the other potential readers can freely use services of libraries and the Internet.

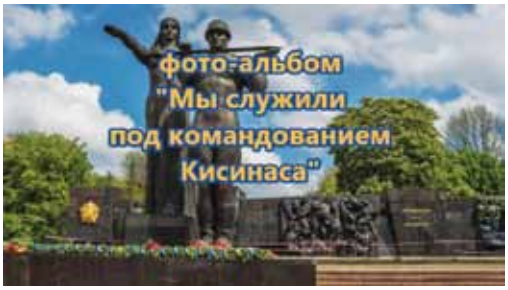
Some readers even filled up separate episodes of the book and sent photos. For example, **Anatoly Kokhanets** sent the photo of the monument erected on the place of the 331st Artillery Regiment, which was disbanded after reorganization of the Ukrainian army, in which he served as the warrant officer.

The monument on the place of the 331st Artillery Regiment which is no any more; there is an Artillery Group as a part of the 128th Motorized Rifle Brigade.

The former soldier of my regiment **Gennady Kokorev** sent the photo of non-staff regimental orchestra under which sounds the regiment repeatedly walked along the streets and squares of Lviv. G. Kokorev wrote, “I have read your book. There are masses of impressions. Memoirs of service and youth gushed over me. The brightest impressions I got of reading the description of service in the 849th

Inscription onthe photo: the brass band of the Artillery Regiment. Lviv, the military unit 48731, 1972-1974

In his new letter, he wrote that he «served in one battery with my son Vladas who was the chief of radio station R-118. The regiment stayed in the summer camp near Magerov more than a half of a year; and in the military camp of the regiment there was a great reorganization and preparation for the exchanging of military camps with the 7th Motorized Rifle Regiment... I often ran on the mountain where the radio station was and spoke with your son about music... I listened to his songs on your page in Odnoklassniki.ru...» He also sent me a small video “We Served under Kisinas’ Command.”



Whether is it possible without nervousness and tears to read these lines, to listen to music of the native orchestra and to watch the video, which were sent to me by one of my dear soldiers whom I called “sons”?

Here are some fragments from the received letters:

✓ **ALGIS VAIČELIŪNAS,** the Brigadier General, the Chief of the Lithuanian Military Academy. Dear Eugenijus, I noticed your concern about the system and the content of preparation of the officers in the Lithuanian Military Academy. I am reading about it and it becomes interesting for me as if I serve not in that academy which I direct and I accept full responsibility for the direction we follow.

✓ **ALEKSANDRAS ALEX,** military pensioner. It is an amazing story of your family during all life. I have also learned many things, as well as you have. I studied in St. Petersburg. I know your military scool. I had to face Varennikov in the Chernobyl operation. It was interesting to me to read the history of your life, as it was my own history only for some 20 years later. I reached the Urals in the wide spaces of the Soviet Union; it was only not as far as you were. Panevėžys period of your family history is very interesting. It is surprising that one of the old city streets is called by the name of your uncle; it is also the recognition of nation.

✓ **AUŠRIUS BUIKUS,** the former cadet of Military Academy of Lithuania. The diligence is very much welcomed to learn the history of the family and its roots. My relatives and I do the same, but the work progresses very slowly. Besides, I remember and I respect all the officers who risked the wellbeing and returned to Lithuania and made efforts to creation of the Lithuanian army and training of the regular officers. You were those first teachers, lectors and instructors who grew up the real generation of the senior officers – you taught us to think and created the basis for further self-education and improvement. I am grateful for it. I have only checked your monograph. It is a very interesting life full of challenges.

✓ **EUGENIJUS VOSYLIUS,** the Colonel reserve officer, the former Chief of the Lithuanian Military Academy. I have read your book with great interest. I have to tell that you are very lucky and you can be proud of the family. You described very in details the period of service and work in the Military Academy of Lithuania and after it. It is pleasant you have mentined Proffesor Valdas Rakutis, the Vice-Rector at my management of the academy. He is a very vigorous and hard-working person with many ideas, to which the Lithuanian army is grateful.

✓ **GEDIMINAS TRAKIMAS,** the former cadet of Military Academy of Lithuania. I read your book day and night, endured everything that you wrote – the Soviet army and the Commander of the Battery "Batia", the father in the true sense. There were also decent officers at soviets. I remember you very well on academy

and according to my term work; it seems that it was "The nuclear weapon", for which I received your positive assessment. I am very surprised you do not live in Lithuania (I explained him why – author). The book is interesting, I would like to tell about it to everybody – to those who served with you and studied at you. The description of the Kisinas' dynasty is welcomed; it is not only for the present generation, but also for the future one. I had the honour to study at you, but also it was necessary for me to work as the military chief. I also it prepared the book of my father memoirs (from 1939 to 1955). I will surely send you the electronic version.

✓ **IRENA KRIVIENĖ,** Director General (CEO) of Vilnius University library. To librarians it is very pleasant to see that families of towering of people undertake a difficult task – to collect all possible information about their famous relatives and to present it to younger generations. Human memory, unfortunately, is short-lived; therefore, it is very important to have a printing word. It was very interesting for us to read the prepared book by you, especially to those who remember venerable Valerija Kisinienė. However, we think that it is necessary to fill up data on history of the library and its people.

✓ **LINA BLOVEŠČIŪNIENĖ,** Director of the Library of the Vytautas Magnum University. Really, the book is very important for the University; it is connected with the famous pre-war and modern people.

✓ **RIMGAILĖ RADVILĖ-VOICIK,** Junior Researcher at Vilnius University. You have lived a very interesting and substantial life! It is so interesting that you went on the similar way as Izidorius Kisinas did – you make the dictionaries and vocabularies.

✓ **VILIJA RAGAIŠIENĖ,** the Head of the Programs Department of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, the Doctor of Philology. At weekend, I read more than a half of your book. Thank you very much for so interesting, informative and light history of your family. You are a happy man despite difficult and tragic circumstances of life. It is a great honour to recognize you and to communicate with you. Be healthy and happy.

✓ **YANA YERINA,** the editor. A very beautiful edition. I admire your desire and aspiration to leave the memory of the family to your descendants.

The Rector of the Vytautas Magnum University at which Abraomas Kisinas defended the dissertation and Izidorius Kisinas worked as the librarian at the Universitety library, and nowadays the daughter of my late sister Rita Audronė Eitmanavičiūtė works in Musical Academy of the University, sent me the thanksgiving diploma:

Padėka

Gerbiamajam

Eugenijui Simonui Kisinui

Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto bendruomenės vardu dėkoju už Universiteto bibliotekai padovanotus ir perduotus saugoti leidinius:
„Mes - Kisinai: Panevėžio Kisinų pėdsakais“ elektronines versijas lietuvių, rusų kalba bei spausdintus knygos egzempliorius.
Giminės istorija - tai ne tik asmeninis žvilgsnis į šeimos genealoginę praeitį, bet ir puikus būdas prisiliesti prie krašto istorijos bei pažinti čia gyvenusių žmonių likimus. Kisinų giminės biografinė apybraiža - tai reikšmingas darbas apie Panevėžio krašto gyventojus, jų visuomeninę ir kultūrinę veiklą, praturtintas autentiškais memuarais ir asmeninio gyvenimo detalėmis.
Knygos vertimas į rusų ir planuojamas vertimas į anglų kalbas dar labiau išplečia pažintines šio leidinio galimybes kitakalbei auditorijai.
Dėkojame už Kisinų giminės pristatymą visuomenei ir Panevėžio krašto istorijos puoselėjimą, neabejodami, jog ši knyga tikrai ras savo skaitytoją.

Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto bendruomenės vardu
Rektorius prof. **Juozas Augutis**

Kaimas, 2017 metų rugsėjo 6 d.

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GRATITUDE

To Dear

Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas

On behalf of the community of the Vytautas Magnum University I thank you for the editions presented to the library of the University and transferred electronic versions in the Lithuanian and Russian languages to storage and printing copies of the book „Mes – Kisinai: Panevėžio Kisinų pėdsakais".

Family history is not only a private judgment on the genealogical past of the family, but also a fine way to touch the history of the region and to learn the fate of people living here. The biographic essay of the Kisinas' family is the considerable work about people of the Panevėžys region, their public and cultural activity enriched with authentic memoirs and details of private life.

The translation of the book into Russian and the planned translation into English even more expands informative opportunities of this edition for those who speaks other languages.

We thank you for representation the Kisinas' family to the public and fostering of the Panevėžys region's history, without doubting that this book will find the readers.

On behalf of the Vytautas Magnum University's community
Rector, Proffesor **Juozas Augutis**

6 October, 2017, Kaunas

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Working on the book, I pursued three aims:

✓ to leave to the descendants the history of our family which we can and have to be proud of and to continue it honourably;

✓ I wished that public knew about the Kisinas' dynasty, which left some mark in the cultural, public, etc. life of Lithuania. I wanted to show what even one person can make if he wishes and is able to make something to the Homeland;

✓ to encourage to learn the stories of the families. However, it is a little, but there are the followers.

I wish all of you to live long and happy life, without losses and shocks, which the last and the present generations had to experience.

POSTSCRIPTUM

When the Lithuanian version of my book was already printed, and the Russian one was almost prepared for printing, I suddenly learned that on 17 November, 2011 my fellow soldier on joint service in Transcarpathia the Major General of artillery Vasily Mikhaylovich Krasulia died on te 64th year of life after a serious illness.

The destiny brought me together with Vasily Mikhaylovich when I was the Rocket and Artillery Chief of the 128th Guards Motorized Rifle Division, and the Lieutenant Colonel V. M. Krasulia was appointed as the Commander of the 331st Guards Artillery Regiment to Perechin. I remember each step of the young commander who tried greatly, and I constantly helped him to become the real Commander. And he became such a Commander. It happened (or we had the luck) that he, as well as I, had to order one of two completely developed Artillery Regiments in the huge Carpathian Military District consisting of three General Armies (four Motorized Rifle and Tank Divisions in each), Tank Army, the Artillery Division, many various Artillery Brigades (only several tens of Artillery Regiments). My Lviv 849th Yassky Artillery Regiment was one of the best in the district, and V. M. Krasulia's regiment became better than the Lviv regiment. The truth is said, what is the commander, such is the regiment.

I did not mention the name of Vasily Mikhaylovich in my book of memoirs and I did not write any surname of the former colleagues. However, almost every line of the book about service in Transcarpathia breathes life and affairs of the 331st Regiment and its nice Commander. Sometimes the service became so hard that the person of no character could break. But Vasily did not break. The events of 1981-1982 I especially remembered. After successful (I would even say, magnificent) actions in the Belarusian maneuvers "West-81" (<<Zapad-81>>) in September, 1981 we got the order of the General Staff to reduce the 128th Guards Motorized Rifle Division, having left in each regiment only one company (battery) of soldiers. It was said and it was done! The division (and the regiment) were left without soldiers. In the spring of 1982, we got the new order to develop the division to former states. Certainly, the division (and the regiment) was filled up with "green" soldiers and sergeants; on the training of them and on the completion of the regiment we had only one month, then there were tactical maneuvers on the territory of the former Czechoslovakia (hundreds of kilometers on mountain roads, unfamiliar grounds, etc.). The

Commander and the regiment sustained this with honour. We did not manage to return from exercises and got the new order – to transfer the regiment to the Luga ground of the Leningrad Region for the service of the educational process of the Leningrad Artillery Academy. It was necessary to show to listeners (and to Generals and officers of academy) how the battery, division and regiment had to shoot and how to manage their fire. But the regiment was absolutely "green". And it could not be in a different way in such conditions. It was necessary to study on the run and to take examinations with a fighting shot for the admission to firing. Vasily Mikhaylovich and his regiment coped with this task. However, not to the end of the business trip. Because the known events in Poland began, and the regiment was returned to the place of dislocation where the division was developed to wartime states. Fortunately, the resolute actions of V. Jaruzelski saved Poland from the Soviet troops and military operations. What person the Commander should be in order not to be lost and not to give in in such drama situation? But V. M. Krasulia did not become puzzled and did not given in; he sustained himself and his regiment sustained.

I would not exaggerate if I tell that considerable part of time or may be the most part of it I spent in Perechin. It was not because I did not trust the Commander of the regiment but because this regiment always was native for me. There was a good educational base; I organized here various training sessions and exercises with the artillerymen of the division. Together with the regiment and other artillery units and divisions, we built the artillery head mistress in the Uzhhorod mountain training centre to which we actually strong grew together. I could say that the 331st Artillery Regiment constantly lived and studied in this training centre because each artillery battalion of the regiment spent 10 days on the ground once a month – there they lived and studied. We much experimented with Vasily, much shot and, of course, observing all security measures, we were afraid of nothing. Officially, on this ground, it was possible to shoot only with mortars, and we shot from guns of all calibers and rocket launchers. When it was necessary to shoot in the mountains at the mountain targets, we developed batteries on the border of training centre near the suburb of the village.

There was such a Regiment and there was such a Commander. Courageous, resolute, sustained, erudite, the Person and the Officer from the capital letter. Even he was not at war, but his service was like a real war – for good reason, for progress and for human souls. However, it is impossible to serve well by order. It is necessary that everybody and, of course, soldiers loved the Commander and

called "Batia". Vasily Mikhaylovich Krasulia was such a person, the real hero. The heroes do not die!

Not for nothing after command of the Regiment, he was appointed as the lecturer of the Leningrad Artillery Academy, where he defended the dissertation and wrote the textbook on tactics of artillery. In 1992, after the collapse of the USSR, he retired to the reserve and returned home to Ukraine (Kiev). He taught at the Kiev Air Defence Academy, participated in the officers' retraining of the Ukrainian army and worked as the Adviser to the Minister of the Government of Ukraine. Being in the reserve, he got the rank of the Major General of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Since 2006, he was the head of the Kiev Regional Organization of the Ukrainian Union of Afganistan Veterans and the Kiev City Organization of Veterans of Ukraine. He created the International Charitable Foundation "Veterans. Youth. Future". In 2003, the leader of the All-Russian Public Organization of Veterans "Fighting brotherhood" the Colonel General Boris Gromov handed to V. M. Krasulia a commemorative medal.

Vasily Mikhaylovich had a serious illness, he lost a leg, but worked to the last gasp. The memorial monument erected on his grave.

Major General V. M. Krasulia and Colonel General B. V. Gromov

Memorial monument to V. M. Krasulia

Eugenijus Simonas Kisinas

WE ARE THE KISINAS

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